

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET (*Contd.*)

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Sir, I associate myself with the previous speakers in all that they said in regard to the great catastrophe which has devastated several parts of middle and North Travancore. I have got a very faint recollection of the floods that swept over those parts in 1057 M. E.; but it is reported that, in the loss of life and property and the great suffering and distress of the people, that flood was nothing in comparison with the one we witnessed now. From all accounts, the floods have not yet completely subsided and the need for temporary relief is not yet over. The refugees from the affected areas have not yet returned to their homes. Several people are said to have no homes at all to return to. It is gratifying to know that the well-to-do classes in those parts responded adequately to the call of duty and that the Government have also not been sparing in their efforts to relieve distress. But the real work, *viz.*, reconstruction work, is yet to be undertaken; and I congratulate the Government on the readiness with which they have come forward to meet the situation. The success of this work will depend upon the promptness and sympathy with which it is executed and I hope they will not be found wanting.

It has been said that this unforeseen event has upset all our calculations and has thrown the whole scheme of the budget out of gear. Though there is some truth in this, I am not prepared to accept it wholly; nor do I think that this should deter us from carrying out progressive schemes for the development of the country. I am inclined rather to share the optimism of the Financial Secretary. He thinks that "our present resources in cash, short-dated bank deposits and investments in Government securities are quite adequate to meet our present requirements." May I also suggest to the Financial Secretary certain other sources which he might tap for meeting the demands of the present situation? Our Devaswom surplus reserve amounts to Rs. 5 lakhs. The Devaswom expenditure next year is expected to be Rs. 4.74 lakhs less than the revised estimate owing chiefly to the absence of the *Murajapam*. These funds may be utilised for permanent reconstruction work in the shape of loans bearing interest. The expenditure on State Charities amounts to nearly Rs. 4 lakhs.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Devaswom surplus is in our hands even now.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Yes. Instead of using this large amount for feeding able-bodied idlers, at least a portion of it may be utilised for temporary relief of distress or for gratuitous help to the poor to restore their houses destroyed by the floods. If this is done, there will be no need to stop any constructive work of permanent improvement in the condition of the people.

Before proceeding to other topics, let me mention one other matter of urgent importance which should engage the attention of the Government. The Government have promulgated an order so early as 1044 that all public roads are open to all classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects. The roads round the Vaikam temple are public roads in the sense of being maintained with public funds and yet these roads are not open to the public generally. The lawful attempts of the prohibited classes to pass along the roads have been prevented by the Government by the use of force. This has led to the adoption of *satyagraha* by those classes. It is the irony of fate that the public funds should be utilised by the Government for doing that, the commission of which, by private persons, was declared to involve the severest displeasure of Government, in their order throwing open all roads to the public. Self-sacrificing public-spirited gentlemen have been sent to jail and are rotting there. Mr. Ramaswami Naicker, a selfless public worker of great fame, has been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for four months for no other offence than that of persisting in remaining in this "land of charity" and working for the amelioration of its depressed classes. This is illegal in one sense. (*Vide* Section 181 T. P. C.) The Government do not seem to take any notice of those things. All constitutional means of obtaining redress seem to have been exhausted. Several representations were made to Government about the Vaikam roads before the *satyagraha* campaign began. Since then a deputation appointed by a joint conference of the Nayar Samajam and the S. N. D. P. Yogam waited upon the Dewan and urged on him the necessity for immediate action. Recently, at a very largely attended meeting of the caste-Hindus held at Chenganur, resolutions were passed unanimously supporting the claims of non-caste Hindus to use these roads. It is worthy of mention that this meeting was attended by several very orthodox Nambudiries and other Malabar Brahmins and that not one of them raised his voice against it. It is well known that the small coterie of caste-Hindus at Vaikam, who are said to oppose the movement, are mostly attached to the temple and are the creatures of the local officers. The leading inhabitants of Vaikam met recently in the S. N. D. P. Yogam Hall and passed resolutions requesting Government to throw open the roads to all classes. The so-called opposition of the caste-Hindus is merely a pretext and the real reason lies elsewhere. May we hope that the Government will really do something soon to right this wrong, to redeem the damaged reputation of the State? (*Hear, hear.*)

Sir, I propose to confine my remarks to-day to the educational budget. The summary given at page 92 shows that the net expenditure upon Education is expected to be Rs. 31,02,900. This is distributed as follows:—

- Rs. 1.74 lakhs for controlling agencies;
- Rs. 2.2 lakhs for collegiate education;
- Rs. 2.7 lakhs for English school education;
- Rs. 14.7 lakhs for vernacular education;
- Rs. 70,000 for special school education; and
- Rs. 9 lakhs for miscellaneous expenses.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

The chief item in the miscellaneous expenses is grants-in-aid which accounts for an expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs. The expenditure on education works out at 15 per cent. of the total revenue. It cannot be denied that this is a fair percentage to be spent on education. This expenditure is bound to increase still more in future, as I shall presently show, if anything like universal mass education, which is the ideal of education in all civilised countries, should be achieved. But, unfortunately, the revenue is far from showing any signs of increase in the same proportion. The revenue of the State reached its high-water mark, viz., Rs. 2 crores in 1097, and it then fell to Rs. 196 lakhs in 1098 and again rose to Rs. 2 crores in 1099. In 1100, a fall to Rs. 198 lakhs is anticipated. How far even this estimate is likely to be reached in 1100, taking into consideration the great calamity which devastated the country in recent times, is yet to be seen. However, we may take it that the maximum revenue that the country is capable of yielding under existing circumstances is Rs. 2 crores. While there are some departments of revenue which are capable of expansion, there are some which show decided signs of diminution in revenue. If the agitation for prohibition of drink succeeds, as it is bound to do in course of time, the receipt from excise, which accounts for Rs. 24 lakhs, is bound to disappear. With the advent of the Cochin Harbour, our customs revenue is likely to be seriously affected. The salt revenue again cannot be considered as a steady and permanent source of revenue. The forests which were thought at one time to be an inexhaustible source of revenue have greatly disillusioned us. As has been rightly remarked by the Dewan of Mysore, the finances of Indian States are bound to be inelastic as their sources of revenue are limited. But we cannot at the same time starve expenditure on nation-building departments like education. The total revenue of the State in 1089 was Rs. 154 lakhs and the net expenditure on education in that year was Rs. 13 lakhs. Thus, during the last ten years, while the revenue of the State has increased only by 28 per cent., the expenditure on education has increased by 146 per cent. This shows that the situation has become very serious and that the time has come for us to consider how best to meet the expanding needs of education without starving the needs of a progressive administration of other departments.

Although we are spending such large amounts of money on education, we find from the distribution of the expenditure that only Rs. 8,84,700 is spent on *real* primary education through departmental schools, for, though Rs. 14 lakhs is spent upon vernacular education, the rest of the amount is consumed by vernacular higher education of boys and girls. Taking 15 per cent. of the population as roughly representing the children of the school-going age, the number of children who ought to attend schools is about 6 lakhs. According to the latest report of the Education Department, we find that the percentage of pupils actually attending all classes of recognised schools was 59.1 and in both

recognised and unrecognised schools put together 63.4 in 1938. But according to the Education Expenditure Committee, this percentage represents only the total number of pupils in attendance in the schools. All of them do not get complete lower grade vernacular education. It is found that at present only 45 per cent. of the pupils attending class I go up to class IV. Again, this percentage is not the same in all communities. Different communities represent different stages in education. I give below the percentages of children of school-going age actually attending schools as regards some of the more important communities to indicate the great disparity that exists between different communities in this respect.

Communities.	Percentage attending schools.
Nayars	93
Christians	93
Ezhavas	63
Mahomedans	33
Pulayars	33
Parayars	40
Nadars	43

This unequal distribution of literacy among the masses is disadvantageous to the weaker communities and it is the paramount duty of the State to remove this inequality. Some of the social and economic problems which the Government have been confronted with in recent times has been the result of this inequality in educational advancement. It must be a matter of great concern to any Government that nearly 70 per cent. of the boys of school-going age among communities such as Pulayars and Parayars, who form the backbone of the agricultural classes of the State, should still be not attending any school at all. I need hardly say that the time has come for taking the question into the serious consideration of Government.

It is quite clear that, whatever facilities we may offer to these depressed classes, without an element of compulsion it will not be possible to induce these communities to send all their children to school. In no country—not even the most advanced countries of Europe—has it been possible to achieve universal education without compulsion. Even in India, the principle has been recognised in several States and Provinces; and Travancore can by no effort of reason escape from it. Nearly ten years ago, a Bill for compulsory primary education was introduced into the Legislative Council by a non-official member of the Council, but it was thrown out by the Government by an official majority on two grounds, viz., that the desire for education in the State was so great that there was no necessity for compulsion, and that the financial condition of the State did not permit of compulsory education being introduced into the State. So far as the first is concerned, the figures that I have already given show that, while it may be true in the case of some of the more advanced communities, it is not true in regard to others, especially the depressed classes. Finance is a real difficulty,

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

about which I shall speak later on. The Education Expenditure Committee appointed by the Government Order dated the 30th August, 1918, also considered the question and recommended the introduction of compulsory primary education. They say in their report (paragraphs 49 and 50):

"49. *Lower Grade Vernacular Education to be universal*.—A sound elementary education in the vernacular suited to the needs of the people is a matter of the utmost importance. It would dispel their ignorance, widen their outlook on life, qualify them to participate intelligently in the political life of the country and improve their economic efficiency. It is essential therefore that every boy and girl in the country should receive this minimum of education. In several countries, elementary education has been made compulsory on account of its vital importance to the people. In Travancore, when an Elementary Education Bill recognising the principle of compulsion was introduced into the Legislative Council on 15th September, 1914, it was contended by some that the people of the country were eager to acquire education, that there was no necessity for compulsion, and all that was necessary was to increase the number of schools so as to provide accommodation for all the pupils seeking admission. Whether their position is correct or not it is not for us to say; we would only emphasise the absolute necessity and the absolute urgency of imparting universal lower grade vernacular education in the country.

"50. *State responsible*.—That the provision, extension, and improvement of elementary education of the masses is one of the primary duties of the State is a principle that is now generally accepted. In Travancore, the State has always played a leading part in the promotion of mass education, and the results already achieved have been largely due to the Government's active efforts in this direction. But a tremendous task still faces the country if elementary education has to be universally diffused, the present number of children receiving lower grade vernacular education being, as we have already seen, only about 58.6 per cent. of the total school-going population. We think that for a speedy achievement of universal education, it is necessary that the efforts of the State should be put forth in a still larger measure than heretofore."

The Government seem to have taken no notice of this recommendation. I shall now examine the financial aspect of the question. In 1098, the Government spent Rs. 7.73 lakhs upon their departmental primary schools; this represents the recurring expenditure alone. The number of children attending departmental primary schools was only 1,30,550. The number of children of school-going age not attending any school either departmental, aided or unaided, was nearly 3 lakhs. If all these children were compelled to go to school, the recurring expenditure on primary education would be increased by something like Rs. 18 to 20 lakhs; besides this, the permanent expenditure on buildings and equipment which will come to a very large amount will have to be met. The Education Expenditure Committee has made a calculation of the total additional expenditure that will have to be incurred for making education compulsory. According to their calculation, the non-recurring expenditure will only be Rs. 5,20,000 and the recurring expenditure will be Rs. 17,20,000, if private effort is encouraged and made to supplement the efforts of Government in this matter.

The question is how to meet this expenditure. By a judicious conservation of the allotment and by a re-adjustment of work in the elementary schools, it may be possible to manage this without incurring

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET 165

any great additional expenditure. In this connection, I am glad to note that the attention of the Government has been drawn to the subject. The Government have approved of the shift-system of primary education suggested by Mr. Paranjpye, formerly Minister of Education in Bombay, and have passed proceedings permitting the department to try this scheme tentatively in ten departmental training schools. If this system succeeds, the saving in expenditure, as anticipated by the Government, is bound to be considerable and I see no reason why, if worked with sympathy and tact, the scheme should not succeed. This will obviate the need for additional schools except in places where there are no schools at all. But, in order to insure success, it may be necessary to offer some inducement to teachers by way of increase of salary. If the double shift system succeeds, the existing school accommodation will be sufficient for double the number of children now accommodated in schools and the same establishment will also be sufficient for this number. The Government can therefore afford to increase the salary of their teachers by five or six rupees. In any case, the salary of the primary school teachers is scandalously low and requires early revision. This may perhaps cost the Government Rs. 2 lakhs. But with that additional expenditure, Government will be able to provide primary education for 1,80,000 children more. In regard to hours of attendance, I would suggest an alteration. I do not see why children should not be asked to come to school at 8 o'clock in the morning. In the old village school-master's days, children used to attend school at 6 o'clock in the morning. They can very well be asked to attend the school now at 8 o'clock. Eight to eleven in the morning and two to five in the afternoon will enable the boys and teachers to avoid working in the hottest part of the day from eleven to two; and teachers will have the additional advantage of three hours' leisure in the noon between the periods of work.

Another suggestion that I have to make in this connection is in regard to grants. The Government are now spending Rs. 8,07,300 on grants-in-aid to schools. I am afraid that there is a great deal of waste in the distribution of grants. This must continue so long as the grants-in-aid are given to private institutions and not to bodies properly constituted. My suggestion is that grants-in-aid should be given only to local bodies or councils constituted under a legislative enactment. These councils or local bodies should be entrusted with the following duties:

1. to carry out a survey of educational facilities in the area, i. e., to find out if there are a sufficient number of schools and if they are properly distributed;
2. to re-locate schools according to needs;
3. to start new schools as needs arise and to raise and lower standards;
4. to provide buildings, equipments and staff for these schools;
5. to receive and distribute Government grants in the area;
6. to assume under its control all schools within the area;
7. to declare education compulsory within that area; and
8. to levy any cess that may be required for meeting the additional cost.

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

This local body must be compelled to make education compulsory within its area within a particular period, say ten years; and, if they do not do so within the period fixed by the Government, the Government must themselves make education compulsory in that area.

In regard to the first function I would assign to this board, I may say that it is feared that there is considerable overlapping of schools, and an educational survey is urgently called for. While in several localities there are not a sufficient number of schools to provide education for all the school-going children in it, there may be other places where schools are maintained without the full standard strength. By a proper and judicious redistribution, therefore, of the schools, it may be possible to provide education for a larger number of children without additional expenditure. The need for a survey of the educational facilities in each *pakuthi* was recognised by the Government so early as 1085. The Education Expenditure Committee quotes the following from Dr. Mitchell's Report for 1085 M. E. :—

"It was pointed out in the last year's report that the average area served by each elementary school was 2.1 square miles, and that this, if schools were uniformly distributed, would more than meet the needs of the State, but that there were numerous anomalies in the distribution of schools. The ratio of area to number of schools is still about the same and the anomalies still continue. The Report also referred to the necessity for adopting some scheme for distribution of schools. The work of the department was unusually heavy during 1085 and it was impossible to take up the question. What I propose to do is that during the current year a beginning should be made with the southern taluks, in some of which there are many schools beyond the actual requirements of the population. The collection of information with regard to these taluks has already begun, but not in any systematic manner. Each taluk will be divided into a certain number of educational areas or units, the needs of each will be investigated with a view to its population, means of communication, etc., and steps will be taken to close any schools which are found to be unnecessary. The importance of such a system cannot be questioned; and although its operations might extend over several years, neither the magnitude of the task nor the consideration of vested interests should prevent its being undertaken."

"Such a survey" observes the Committee was, however, neither attempted nor has it been reported in any subsequent year that the anomalies have ceased to exist. Evidently, they still continue. If so, we would suggest that the investigation contemplated in 1085 should now be carried out and the schools redistributed according to actual local needs. In cases in which a departmental school and a private school exist side by side and one of them is found unnecessary, the private schools being less expensive to Government should be allowed to continue, the departmental school being withdrawn."

This is the opinion of the Education Expenditure Committee. I would have this survey undertaken by the Education Boards which I recommend to Government to appoint.

The creation of these local bodies will have another great advantage inasmuch as it will remove the bane of communal institutions in the State. As there are several communities in the State, the control of private education by any one particular community is looked upon with suspicion by other communities and they naturally desire to start and maintain institutions of their own. This leads to unhappy rivalry and excites bad blood between the communities and places the Education

Department very often in awkward situations. The establishment of a body in which all communities are adequately represented will remove this evil. This will also solve the problem of compulsory mass education. My opinion is that all educational institutions should belong to the nation and not to particular communities and the best way of bringing about this desirable consummation is the handing over of all private schools to local bodies as above constituted. The distribution of the allotment for education between collegiate, secondary and elementary education is also not equitable. A larger proportion of the allotment should be earmarked for elementary education. The expenditure on collegiate education should be reduced by revising the staff which in the opinion of the people is out of all proportion to the needs of the people. If all this is done, my view is that the problem of compulsory primary education will have been brought within the province of practical politics.

The number of students residing in the Caste Hindu Hostel in 1095 was 34. The total expenditure on this institution was Rs. 15,276. The receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 6,744. The net expenditure was Rs. 8,532. Roughly each student had to pay Rs. 20 for his meals, and on each student Government spent another Rs. 25 in addition per month calculating ten months in the year. The total cost per student was thus Rs. 45. This is extravagant. The new Caste Hindu Hostel is intended to accommodate 106 students. At this rate Government will have to spend nearly Rs. 30,000 for hostel accommodation when the new hostel is opened for 106 students. Further, this building is estimated to cost Rs. 1,71,000, which means that the cost per student for the building would be Rs. 1,603. This cost is incurred by the Government for providing him with a room 12 feet by 10 feet. With this amount you can construct a small building which would accommodate at least 10 students. From an architectural standpoint also the building has been a great disappointment. When the roofing has been put up, it has a very ugly appearance. The windows are disproportionately small and illumination is imperfect.

There were 30 students in the Women's College Hostel in 1097. The expenditure on the Hostel was Rs. 8,456 and the receipts Rs. 2,635. Each student paid at the rate of Rs. 9 only and the additional cost to Government on each student was only Rs. 19. Why there should be such a great difference between the boys' and girls' hostels in the matter of expenditure requires explanation. Can it be that the boys eat twice as much as the girls?

There are three special schools intended for Malayala Brahmins and one for Kshatriyas. The Kshatriya school is situated at Mavelikara and is said to be a boarding school. The expenditure on this school is met by the Government but it is not to be found separately mentioned anywhere in the budget. I hope the Director of Public Instruction will tell us where he has hidden it and why. In regard to the Malayala

[Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

Brahmins, I recognise the necessity for encouraging education among them. But I demur to the view that there should be special schools for any particular class. Secondly, if any special school is needed for Malayala Brahmins the expenditure must be met from the Devaswom or *Oottu-pura* funds and not from the general revenues of the State.

The Education Code is an old code and it requires revision in several points. There are also other matters like vocational education, college accommodation, etc., with which I should like to deal, but for want of time I shall do so on some other occasion.

The Education Department—English branch especially—has become a close preserve for Brahmins. From the statement, furnished by the Government in answer to an interpellation by Mr. M. N. Pillai, of graduates appointed as acting teachers in the English and Vernacular schools for boys during the last three years, we find that, out of a total of 96 appointments, 49 are held by Brahmins. Again, of the 23 Assistant Inspectors of schools, 11 are Brahmins. Out of 20 headmasters of English schools 16 are Brahmins. In the college, out of 16 Professors and Assistant Professors, 12 are Brahmins, and out of 27 Tutors, 14 are Brahmins. Out of 37 appointments carrying a salary of over Rs. 200 and above, 24 are held by Brahmins. Whatever may have been the case at one time, it cannot now be contended with any show of reason that it is due to want of applicants from other communities. It is due to the fact the Brahmins holding the highest appointments in the department exercise their influence in this direction in favour of members of their own community. As the number of graduates turned out by the University is increasing year after year, the problem of unemployment assumes great importance. Almost every member who spoke on the budget referred to the fact that the system of recruitment to the service has not given satisfaction to the public. This matter has been the subject of agitation for the last 35 years, and yet there has been no change in the attitude of the Government. It has been a cry in the wilderness. Not only is this communal bias shown in the matter of appointments; if the implications contained in Mr. Kumara Pillai's speech are well-founded, it is being extended to punishments and promotions. Corrupt officers are said to be shielded and differential treatment awarded to offenders of different communities. The Chief Engineer is, from all accounts, the greatest offender in this respect; and I hope he will render a full explanation of the charges made against him. If early action is not taken in the matter, I take this opportunity to warn the Government that the means available to similarly-situated communities of non-Brahmins in Madras are available to us here also; and we will not fail to take advantage of them if necessary. I hope the Government will not drive us to that and create a problem, the solution of which will be fraught with the greatest difficulties to the Government. From the numerical standpoint, the Brahmins are entitled only to 1.25 per cent. of the appointments while they now hold in some departments over 70 per cent.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Devicolumicum Paermade*): Sir, to begin with, I have to thank the Government for the great sympathy shown to the people of North and Central Travancore, who are suffering from the effects of unprecedented floods. The flood was indeed the result of abnormal rains in the land. But in the case of the ravages caused on the lands on either side of the Periyar, I have to say that the situation was greatly aggravated by the opening, *without any previous notice*, of the sluices in the Periyar Dam. As the House may be aware, the Periyar Lake has an area of about 23 square miles with a maximum depth of about 150 feet. The volume of water in the reservoir is several times greater than the volume of water in the Vembanad Lake and the whole of that water is more than 2,000 feet above the sea level. If proper care is not taken of this vast quantity of stored-up energy, it will be the cause of the annihilation of large areas in Travancore and Cochin. Sluices are, however, provided to see that the water-level does not go beyond a certain point. When, owing to heavy rains in the catchment area, it is found that the water tends to go above the maximum level allowed, the sluices are opened and water let through. This year the sluices appear to have been opened without any previous notice. All reports from the affected area confirm this view. Twenty cart-loads of rice and four cart-loads of machinery belonging to Mr. P. John of Kottayam, which were halting on the road to Karimkulam Estate, were suddenly caught in the torrents and washed away! The reports from the Periyar Estate also show that the rise of water was sudden and loss of life and property was enormous. I would, therefore, request you, Sir, to negotiate with the Madras Government that timely notice of the opening of the sluices may be given in future. I may take this opportunity to sound a note of warning that a negligent handling of this stupendous store of energy may at any moment cause a greater calamity to the inhabitants living in the lower reaches of the Periyar river.

With respect to the munificent help which the Government are affording to the people afflicted by the floods, what I have to suggest is that care should be taken to see that the help that the Government give actually reaches the really deserving. I suggest that the best method of relieving the distress would be to entrust the work to the Land Revenue Commissioner, who will allot the necessary funds to the Peishkars according to the necessities of each division. The Division Peishkar may be asked to disburse the funds on the recommendations of a committee to be formed in each affected taluk consisting of the Tahsildar and three or four non-official gentlemen from each of the affected *pakuthies*.

I understand that there is a suggestion to entrust the funds to Co-operative Credit Societies in all the affected areas. Some of the so-called societies exist only in name and are doing very little work. Moreover, the function of a Co-operative Credit Society is not to engage itself in works of charity for outside people. I have no faith that these societies, which are only in their infancy in our country, are going suddenly to rise to the occasion and satisfactorily give relief to the suffering.

[Mr. K. Dominic Thomman.]

Then, coming to the budget, I note therein an item of Rs. 4½ lakhs of revenue proposed to be realised by the sale of Government lands. The major portion of this income, I believe, is expected from the sale of lands in the High Ranges. As we have got only a very limited extent of cultivable land still remaining to be sold, I would suggest that the further sale of lands to foreigners be absolutely prohibited. Till recently, there was a rule prohibiting foreigners from acquiring lands in Travancore without the special sanction of the Government. For some reason or other, that rule is done away with. I would request you, Sir, to revive that wholesome rule in the interests of the future generations of Travancore.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass, without making a remark on the appointments in the State services. In various forms, this subject has been taking up the time of this Council from the very beginning. Though, at one time, the claims for equal treatment to all subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja in the distribution of appointments in the land was ridiculed even in this House by some members belonging to the privileged classes, it seems now to be fairly admitted that the State service is not the prerogative or birthright of one particular caste or class and that the claim is not for any favour but for bare justice. It is, however, only the *principle* that is admitted; the *practice* continues to be what it was before. As several of the interpellations on the subject remain unanswered, I am not in possession of facts and figures in all cases. From the answers already given and from the actual knowledge of several departments, I can say that, if we include the subordinate services also, 95 per cent. of the appointments in the State will be found to be held by caste Hindus alone. I need not say, Sir, that this is a matter that deserves serious consideration by the Government. Some people seem to support this inequality and defend it on grounds of efficiency. If we look closely into the plea of the so-called efficiency, it will be found that it has become the practice in Travancore that heads of departments and other officers belonging to particular castes find efficiency only in candidates belonging to their own particular castes or communities.

We now-a-days hear so much of corruption in the land and the earnest prayer is expressed by papers and by members in the Popular Assembly and in this House to investigate into the alleged cases of corruption with a view to purify the departments. One method suggested yesterday in this House was that, whenever a newspaper imputed corruption to an officer, the officer should be asked to prosecute the paper so that a court of law might declare the honesty of the officer or the correctness of the statement in the paper. I am not going now to discuss the propriety of this suggestion. I may point out, however, that, to find out corruption, there is no necessity for pursuing such a round-about course. Corruption in a most flagrant and tangible form is disclosed in the answers to some of the questions in this House itself. We are told in some of the answers that the appointments made by some of the officers

are practically entirely from their own castes or communities. This shows that such officers are partial to their own caste-men; that they are not conscientious in the matter of appointments; in other words, that they are corrupt in the matter of appointments. It is only a legitimate inference that one who is corrupt in one respect will be corrupt in others as well. These officers are bound in conscience to discharge their functions impartially and without making any distinction between caste and creed. Their action shows that they are not fit to be entrusted with this sacred trust. I would suggest to the Government to begin here, at the extermination of corruption, and make an example of those men who grow fat on the sweat of the people of the land but care only for their own kith and kin. If the Government show that they are firm in stamping out corruption of this sort, I feel no doubt that there would be no room for most of the present complaints.

My friend Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai does not seem to see eye to eye with the unprivileged classes in this matter. What Fr. Vettikkapalli said yesterday was that, even after the Revenue—Devaswom separation, the major portion of appointments in the Revenue Department was given to caste Hindus, and that the promotion of officers from the Devaswom Department blocked the chances of the unprivileged classes in the Revenue Department. I may, however, observe that I do not see any objection, on principle, even in keeping out the privileged classes until the others have come to a level with them, in the matter of appointments in the Revenue Department. The caste Hindus were allowed to appropriate what was justly due to other communities. All that is now claimed is equalisation as far as possible. This principle has been accepted in Madras and in Mysore. I do not see why the same principle will not suit Travancore.

Another matter on which I wish to make a remark is the policy of promotions of officers in the Devaswom Department to the Revenue Department. It is an injustice to the non-caste Hindus and to non-Hindus that a very large amount from the general revenue is utilised to pay caste Hindus in the Devaswom Department, to which the former have no entrance. To promote officers from the Devaswom to the Revenue Department is aggravating the injustice. In the face of such promotions, non-caste Hindus and non-Hindus can never aspire to get their just share of the appointments. I do not see any justifiable reason why interchange of officers between Revenue and Devaswom Departments should be allowed. I would therefore suggest that such promotions and interchanges be stopped.

I may inform the Government that the inequality shown in this matter of appointments is causing great heart-burning and unrest in the land. The attempt of all modern Governments is to take the people into their confidence. I believe this Council itself is established to attain that object. A Government that has this object in view should remove all causes for grave discontent. I can assure the Government that nothing creates so much discontent in the land at the present time as inequality shown in the matter of appointments and

172 TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL [4TH AUGUST 1924]

[Mr. K. Dominic Tomman.] I would suggest that the Government cannot be too solicitous in this respect. I would suggest to the Government to take immediate steps to remedy this grievance. I would also suggest that a quarterly castewar statement of all new appointments in the State be published.

I have now to offer a remark on a matter that is causing great hardship and worry to several in my taluk and in some of the neighbouring taluks, namely, the revision now made of the revenue assessment fixed at the last Settlement. The *Cherikal* Settlement was completed only in 1085. It is only 14 years since that time. In Section 31 of the Settlement Proclamation, His Highness the Maha Raja was pleased to declare that the settlement was permanent for 30 years. The *cherikal* lands in those taluks were assessed to land revenue according to the *Cherikal* Settlement rules, and the settlement was completed and confirmed by the Government. It happened, however, in several cases that lands which should have been treated as *jennom* and other favourably assessed tenures were treated as *pandaravaka* and the full assessment as fixed at the settlement was levied instead of levying a portion of it. Likewise it happened also that lands belonging to private persons under some favourable tenure or other were treated as Sirkar lands and included under *Tanathuchitta*. In all these cases, however, the proper assessment according to rules then in force was fixed. Many of those persons, who were aggrieved by the decisions of the settlement authorities in treating their lands as of a different tenure or as belonging to the Sirkar, filed civil suits against the Sirkar. In the majority of cases the suits were allowed declaring the rights of the land-holders. The original *chittas* and *pattas* had therefore to be corrected in the light of the civil court decrees. In realising the tax, the proper thing to be done was to adopt the assessment made at the settlement and levy only a proportion under the rules. What is now done in several instances is that a new and higher assessment is arbitrarily fixed and a portion of that is realised. I may mention an actual case. A person claimed a block of land as his *jennom*; a portion of it only was declared as *jennom* by the settlement authorities and the remaining portion was treated as *pandaravaka*. The full assessment for the *pandaravaka* portion was fixed at three fanams per acre as it was done in the case of all other lands in the neighbourhood and in accordance with the *Cherikal* Settlement rules then in force. His contention however was that the whole of his land was of *jennom* tenure and he filed a civil suit and the civil court decreed that the whole land was of *jennom* tenure. The revenue authorities ought to have then realised only half the assessment originally fixed at the settlement. The Peishkar, however, arbitrarily fixed the assessment at seven fanams per acre and ordered the party to pay half of it as the land was declared by the civil court to be of *jennom* tenure. The original tax was only three fanams. Now, after having got a decree of the civil court that the land is of *jennom* tenure and is entitled to be favourably taxed, the land-holder

is ordered to pay three and a half fanams. This is against the declaration in the Royal Proclamation and against the spirit of the *Karampatippu* Rules. There is no question here that the assessment fixed at the settlement was wrong or was less than what ought to have been fixed. The regulations and all the rules bearing on the subject are against the action of the Government. The action on the part of the Government may again drive the people to the civil court for redress, which will cause heavy loss to the parties concerned and to the Government. I would therefore suggest that the matter may be thoroughly investigated so that the worry and hardship caused to a very large number of people may be avoided.

MR. TRIVIKRAMAR VASUDEVAR (*Jennies*): രാജ്യത്തുള്ള വരവു ചിലവുകളെ പറ്റി ചിന്തിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതിനടിസ്ഥാനമായ ചിലകാര്യങ്ങളെക്കൂടി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഗവൺമെൻറു ജനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും കരം പിരിച്ചാൽ അതൊക്കെ പ്രജാക്ഷേമത്തിനായി തന്നെ ചിലവഴിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള തത്വം പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ്. കൊല്ലത്തിൽ എത്ര സംഖ്യ ചിലവിനു വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്ന് ആദ്യമായി കണക്കാക്കണം. ജനങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ പുതിയ കരങ്ങൾ ചുമത്താതെ ഇപ്പോൾ ചുമത്തിട്ടുള്ള കരത്തെ തന്നെ കുറവു ചെയ്ക എന്നുള്ളതാണ് പരിഷ്കൃത ഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന നയം. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തെ ചിലവിൽ അധികം വരവുണ്ടെന്നു കണ്ടാൽ പുതിയതായി ചുമത്തിയ കരത്തെ കുറവു ചെയ്തു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ഏതൊരു ഗവൺമെൻറും മടി കാണിക്കയില്ല. അനാവശ്യമായി പ്രജകളുടെ പണം വെജനാവിൽ കെട്ടി വയ്ക്കുന്ന നയം ഒരു ഗവൺമെൻറും സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതാകുന്നു. യുദ്ധകാലത്ത് ഓരോ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പലവിധം കരം പ്രജകളുടെ മേൽ ചുമത്തപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു. യുദ്ധം അവസാനിച്ചതിനു ശേഷം ചിലവു മുതങ്ങി എന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ പലകരങ്ങളും കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഏതെങ്കിലും കാര്യവശാൽ ഈ നാട്ടിലുള്ള കരങ്ങൾ കുറച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതായി ദൃഷ്ടാന്തങ്ങൾ പറയാൻ ഒന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. സർക്കാർ പണാപഹരണം ചെയ്യുന്നവർക്കു ശരിയായി ശിക്ഷ കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് എന്റെ സ്പെനഹിതനായ മിസ്റ്റർ ക്ലാർക്കിന്റെ പറഞ്ഞതു പരമാത്മമാണെന്ന് എനിക്കും അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഇവിടെത്തെ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽ നിന്നു പണച്ചുമതലയുള്ള പലരും പണം അപഹരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായും അവരെ ശരിയായി ശിക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നുമാണ് അറിയുന്നത്. അഞ്ചൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ നിന്നു പണാപഹരണം മുറയ്ക്കു നടന്നു വരുന്നുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെ

[Mr. Trivikramar Vasudevar.]

യുള്ളവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയോ സസ്പെൻഡ് ചെയ്യുകയോ പണം കെട്ടിവെക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യാതെ കൂടുതൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ജോലിയിൽ തന്നെ വെച്ചു ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. പണാപഹരണം ചെയ്ത രൊളിനെ ഇവിടത്തെ ആഫീസിൽ ചുമതല ജോലിയിൽ വെച്ച് ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിന്ന് അപഹരിച്ചുപണം ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നതായി അറിയുന്നു. ആയുർവ്വേദവകുപ്പിൽനിന്നു സർക്കാർ പണം അനവധി അനാവശ്യച്ചിലവുകൾക്കായി ചിലവാകുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതിലും കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ആളുകൾക്കായി ഉദ്യോഗം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുന്ന നയം വിട്ടു പല ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾക്കും കൃഷിപ്രിയമായ ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചു കൂടുതലുള്ള ശമ്പളങ്ങളെ കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൊടുക്കണം പല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും മോട്ടാർ വാങ്ങുന്നതിനുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ. കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ നേരിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള നഷ്ടത്തിനു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശരിയായ ഒരു ചുമതലയാണ്. കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യമുള്ള വിത്തും കന്നുകാലി മുതലായതും വാങ്ങാനുള്ള പണം പലിശകൂടാതെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

രാജ്യത്തിലെ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാകയാൽ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെ കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതും ഒരു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ് എന്ന് എനിക്കിഷ്ടപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ വൈക്കത്തു നടക്കുന്ന സത്യാഗ്രഹം സംബന്ധിച്ചു കറേപണം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ചിലവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ധർമ്മസംരക്ഷണാത്മക ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന് ഇതിലധികവും ചിലവു ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവരും. ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹത്തെ പൊതുജനങ്ങളും വൈക്കത്തെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളും എതിർക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ആ വകയ്ക്കുള്ള ചിലവ് അത്യാവശ്യച്ചിലവായിത്തന്നെ വിചാരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഈ കാൺഗ്രസ്സ് സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമില്ല. കാൺഗ്രസ്സാണ് സത്യാഗ്രഹം നടത്തുന്നതെങ്കിൽ അവരിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ അതു സംബന്ധമായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനുണ്ടാകുന്ന ചിലവിനെ ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഒരു ട്രൈബ്യൂണലുവശ്യമുള്ള പണം ആ ട്രൈബ്യൂണൽ നിവാസികളിൽ നിന്നും ഈടാക്കിവരുന്നതുപോലെ ഈ വകയ്ക്കു ചിലവാകുന്ന പണം സത്യാഗ്രഹികളിൽനിന്നുതന്നെ ഈടാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

എന്നാൽ ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ എതിർക്കുന്നതിന് ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്. സത്യാഗ്രഹികൾ ഗവർണ്മെന്ററാജ്ഞയെ സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ പ്രസംഗരൂപേണ ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനേയും പൗരാവലിയേയും ആക്ഷേപിക്കുന്നു. മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധിയുടെ തത്വമല്ല ഈ കൂട്ടർ സ്വീകരിച്ചു കാണുന്നത്. അക്രമരാഹിത്യമാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മതം. അവർ അക്രമം ആണ് ചെയ്തുവരുന്നത്. ഇപ്പോൾ വൈക്കത്തു പോലീസുകാർ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളെ ഭയന്നാണ് കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നത്. ഈ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളുടെ അടുത്തുകൂടി ഒരു പട്ടിയോ പൂച്ചയോ പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതെല്ലാം പോലീസുകാർ സത്യാഗ്രഹികളെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കാനായിട്ടയച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു നടക്കും. അതിനൊക്കെ പോലീസുകാർ സമാധാനം പറയണം. ഈ വഴിക്കാണ് പോലീസുകാർ ഭയന്നിരിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്. പത്രപ്രസ്താവനങ്ങളിൽ ചിലതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻതന്നെ സ്ഥലത്തുചെന്ന് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു വഴക്കാരിൽ നിന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിന് വേണ്ടിവരുന്നപണം പൊതുമുതലിൽനിന്നും വ്യയം ചെയ്യുന്നത് ഒരിക്കലും ന്യായമായിവരുന്നതല്ല.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Sir, in regard to the general forecast of the budget for the year 1100 made by the Financial Secretary, I have very little to say except that I fully share the sympathy which has actuated the Government in affording prompt relief to the people of Travancore afflicted by the recent terrible flood catastrophe. Neither the beneficent Government nor the people have stinted aught to alleviate the suffering caused by this unexpected ravage of nature. The highest meed of praise is due to the Government for their sympathy, alertness and promptitude in this matter.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Louder please. He cannot be heard absolutely.

PRESIDENT: His voice is like that. What can we do for that?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I am wrong with my voice. I hope the House will excuse me for that.

Necessarily the outlook of the Financial Secretary—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): His voice is now worse than before.

PRESIDENT: May I request some other member to read out your speech for you, Mr. Lakshmana Pillai?

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): My manuscripts cannot be read easily by another member. (*Laughter*.) I shall attempt to read louder.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): His previous voice was better than his *false* voice.

[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Necessarily the outlook of the Financial Secretary for the coming year is gloomy, as it is uncertain in what ways our revenues will go down and in what directions and to what extent new expenditure would have to be incurred as a sequence of the stupendous catastrophe. I would, therefore, not be wise at this stage in venturing my remarks on the provisions made under the main heads of revenue and expenditure.

I think, however, that it is my duty to offer some suggestions on one or two minor matters for which either no provision or only scanty provision has been made by the Government. I believe I would not be wrong in summing up all these matters, under the head of fine arts, especially music and painting. Under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments, Government have included the Photograph Department, Public Library, Archæological Department and Preservation of Oriental Literature. Some of the fine arts, especially poetry and drama, have been represented under these heads. I beg to enquire what provision has been made for the departments of painting and music which are equally important branches of the fine arts. It may be asked, what practical utility do these fine arts serve in the life of the people? My answer is, there is not less utility in painting and music than in poetry, drama and history. The fine arts serve to fill the mind with beautiful emotions which are the generators of beautiful and good actions. More sympathy will be created among the people. Herbert Spencer says that, for the creation and promotion of sympathy between man and man, there is no more effective agency than music which he calls "the finest of the fine arts". Ruskin says:

"You do not perhaps know that music was, among the Greeks, quite the first means of education and that it was so connected with their system of ethics and of intellectual training, that the God of music is with them also the God of righteousness, the God who purges and avenges iniquity and contends with their Satan, as represented under the form of Python, the corrupter. And the Greeks were incontrovertibly right in this. Music is the nearest at hand, the most orderly, the most delicate, and the most perfect of all bodily pleasures; It is also only the one which is equally helpful to all the ages of man, helpful from the nurse's song to her infant to the music unheard of by others, which often, if not most frequently, haunts the death-bed of pure and innocent spirits; and the action of the deceiving or devilish power is in nothing shown quite so distinctly among us at this day—not even in our commercial dishonesties nor in our social cruelties—as in its having been able to take away music as an instrument of education altogether."

Dr. Harvey, the late revered Professor and Principal of the Arts College here, under whose beneficent influence I was fortunate enough to be placed, said that music was given gratis in some of the country parts in Scotland with the express object of creating sympathy and reducing crime, and that this led to some real reduction under the head of criminal expenditure. We need not be surprised if, on this account, some savings were actually made out of the pay of the Jail Superintendent and made over to the music master.

It may be asked what scope there is in Travancore for the development of these arts. Every schoolboy knows that there are hundreds and thousands of boys and girls in Travancore who evince genuine taste in music and painting which, under proper nurture and favourable opportunities, would bloom and prosper and shed additional lustre on our country. Nature has richly endowed this ancient State with all the beauties that are available in her store, seeking only the appreciative eye and the tuneful ear of her people. Travancore, therefore, is best suited to be the nursery of all the fine arts. My question is, is it not the duty of the Government to give an adequate impetus to the growth of these arts in which aptitude is found in such abundance among the people of Travancore? There is no painting school here to speak of, although an apology for it is kept up by the artist Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi. There is no music school even in the Capital, and the one started by Mr. J. Kutfan Pillai died a premature death for want of encouragement. Though we expect music tutors in schools to be well equipped in the art, we are aware that there is no training school whatever to which they may repair for their training. Mr. A. C. Benson says:

"Politics are after all nothing but the making of arrangements for men to live at peace with each other. People get in the way of talking of the State as if it were something above and separate from the nation. But the State is, after all, the nation, and the Parliament is but the nation making its own rules and arrangements."

He asks:

"What then is the ideal life for the citizen of the community? He ought to be made healthy, neighbourly, good-humoured, upright, self-restrained, orderly. He ought to have a definite piece of work to do, in order to support himself and those members of the community (the incapacitated) who cannot do any work. But toil ought never to fall into mere and hopeless drudgery. Every one ought to have leisure and to be able to use it. Work ought to be enjoyable and enjoyed, and besides that, there ought to be an enjoyment of beautiful and leisurely things. That is a simple programme, and yet how far are we from realising it!"

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the Women's College?

PRESIDENT: He is talking about music and painting.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether he is aware of the existence of the music class in the Women's College.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): I am talking of music tuition. Further on Mr. A. C. Benson says:—

"The real life which we must keep in view is the life which insists on work as a duty and yet allows a real margin of leisure; the cultivation of a taste for all beautiful and interesting things."

It is among these beautiful and interesting things in the life of a nation that we have to class such fine arts as painting and music, and I submit that they are worthy enough to be catalogued among our Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments which now show only a blank in this respect.

The only attention that seems to have been paid by the Government to music is the provision that they have made for music tutors or Bhagavatars in Vernacular Schools for Girls. Why should not

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

music instruction be given to the boys also, especially to those who evince special aptitude in that direction? An allotment of Rs. 30,000 is made for 196 Bhagavatars at Rs. 14. On my interpellation as to why the Bhagavatars are paid only Rs. 14, whereas Drawing Masters are paid Rs. 18, I have not been able to elicit a satisfactory answer except that the Government think the arrangement right. (*Laughter.*) Bhagavatars have now been divided into two grades, and the music examination is being yearly conducted on this basis. But unfortunately both grades are clubbed together in the matter of pay. This is, to say the least, anomalous. The first grade musicians should be paid somewhat higher, and if the sum of Rs. 30,000 allotted is to prove useful in any way, the necessary additional expenditure should not be grudged in view of the importance of this art. This is not the place to propose what increase should be given to the first grade Bhagavatars. That is a matter to be left to the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction.

I humbly and strongly urge upon the Government the necessity for making adequate provision for opening a Music Training School as well as a Painting School at the Capital of this model State, without which it is impossible to expect tutors to be proficient in these arts.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Sir, this is evidently the last budget meeting of this Council. We are to bid good-bye to the eleventh century of the Malabar era and soon enter into a new epoch. Nature herself seems to have been dissatisfied with our old ways of doing things in the past and gave us an indication of the need of a thorough change and cleansing by the recent flood calamity so touchingly referred to in the speech of the Financial Secretary. Thank God that the clouds of distress and despair are slowly clearing up. The smiling re-appearance of the sun during the last few days is really consoling.

As a member of one of the most afflicted areas in North Travancore, I must express the appreciation of the people for the prompt measures taken by the local officers in conjunction with the public to render all manner of help to the distressed population. We feel very grateful for the ready and liberal measures taken by the Government for affording gratuitous relief in distressed areas. I am very happy to learn about the statement made by the Dewan that the Government propose to render all the help they can to relieve distress and to facilitate the task of reconstruction and also for the enhanced liberal provision for agricultural loans and P. W. D. works for the relief of distress caused by the recent flood. But I have to submit a word of warning in this connection. It is a matter of common knowledge and a subject of constant complaint that the agricultural loans do not reach those who are really in need of it, and the expense of getting it is prohibitive. Even if one gets it, it will be long after the necessity has been met in other ways.

It is also a well-known fact that the P. W. D. repairs are seldom done in proper seasons. It is perhaps due to the fault of the system. The subordinate executive staff get the necessary sanction for funds only at the wrong end of the year, or it may be that these subordinates are not properly dealt with for their slackness. The so-called repairs are only meant to be washed by the first rains soon after the completion. Some reliable executive officers should be selected and they should be given larger powers for the immediate execution of the relief works in consultation with the local public. Whatever the sort of special agency that is contemplated by authorities, it must necessarily be above suspicion. As the reliefs are immediately required, a competent reliable officer, who has some special aptitude for prompt action, would be preferable to an ever-quarrelling public body. Immediate relief in the supply of materials for the construction of small houses, purchase of seeds, and sanitary and other precautionary measures in regard to the outbreak of cholera, fever and dysentery, should be immediately undertaken and carried out.

Coming to the other portions of the Financial Secretary's speech, I am sorry to say that they are rather disappointing. Mr. George used to give the House very interesting observations and instructive remarks and able explanations for the financial situations which we have to meet every year. They are wanting to a large extent in this year's speech. But I am very glad to observe that our receipts under Railways are somewhat encouraging and I should think that this should be another reason for investing more money on remunerative works like the extension of railways, irrigation projects, etc.

However, our financial outlook is not satisfactory. For several years, we have been taxing the people from every side. No man or woman is spared. The boatmen, the fishermen, the poor women who carry their baskets of brinjals to the nearest market, and even the travellers are being taxed now against the traditions of our State. The result is an ever-increasing revenue to the State. But we have been spending all these for the so-called 'ever-growing progressive administration' without investing any appreciable portion of our revenue on proper remunerative works.

Though retrenchment has been the burden of the song from this side of the House, little has been done in that direction and more channels of expenditure of questionable utility have been opened even to counteract the effect of the little retrenchments we have been able to make. To save the situation, some new bold policy has to be adopted.

Coming to the expenditure side, I am glad to observe that the Government and the Chief Engineer have begun to feel the necessity of diverting more funds for communications in North Travancore, which used to get only a step-motherly treatment before the advent of the present Dewan. Something or other seems to have been set apart for some of the urgent needs of the distant north. But it has to be remembered that providing a small fund for any work in the budget is one thing and getting the work done is

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

quite a different thing in the annals of our P. W. D. I may be permitted to observe one thing in this connection, viz., that it would be far more advisable to provide for a lesser number of works and have them completed in the very same year if it is practicable, than to follow the proverbial methods of the barbers at Ramesvaram. (*Laughter.*) Doing things by halves always leads to leakage and wastage.

I am personally also very happy to see at least a few thousands of rupees being provided for the survey of the Kottarakara-Ernakulam Railway. Ever since I was returned by my constituency for the last Council and for this Council, almost the first question I use to get from my voters on my return after every sitting of the Council has been: "What have you done for the extension of the Kottarakara-Alwaye Railway?" The public opinion all along in North Travancore has been that the construction of the Tinnevely-Quilon line was a mistake and it could be corrected partially at least by constructing a connecting line between the Shoranur-Cochin Railway and the Quilon-Shencotta line. But I hope that earnest and prompt attention will be taken by the Government to carry out the scheme.

The growing expenditure of our Education Department is really a hard financial problem which requires the careful consideration of this House. The only solution I can find is the delegation of a considerable portion of the work to private responsible bodies with proper departmental supervision and control. More schools may be handed over to such bodies as the Nayar Samajam, Karayogams, Uranma authorities, Samathamitans, church authorities and such other bodies as are prepared to show sufficient solvency and security for the proper continuance of the institutions entrusted to them. If private agencies are properly encouraged by the department and treated with greater sympathy and fellow-feeling, I am sure that the evil effects of the anti-pathology generated by Dr. Mitchell and his Code against private schools will soon be swept away and that the Government would be relieved of a good portion of the burden put on their head by Dr. Mitchell.

Sir, one word about the Revenue Department before I finish my observations. I was one of those who took some part in the civic rights movement and I had also the privilege of serving on the Devaswom Separation Committee. One main object of the separation was to throw open the Revenue Department to all classes of His Highness' subjects. To achieve this all-desirable reform, which was overdue, the separation of the Devaswoms was resorted to at an enormous expenditure of more than one lakh of rupees required for a separate establishment. But what is the effect? Things go on as before; the department still remains practically closed to nearly 30 lakhs of His Highness' subjects, the net result being only an additional expenditure to the State. It is very much to be regretted that, even after the appointment of an Englishman, who is known for fair-play, at the head of the Revenue Department, things are no better. He seems to be at his wit's end on account of a clever arrangement made by his predecessor in the grade scale

and promotion of the staff of the Devaswom Department and in the inter-connected Revenue Department though separated in theory. So, unless the mentality of the Government is changed, there is no use in the separation which is now effected. The numerous interpellations and the replies and the returns called for show that the Government are not very serious about the matter. This is to be very much regretted, especially in view of the large expenditure we have incurred for the so-called separation.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Sir, I was one of those who, when the Council met on the 10th Karkadakam, said that the discussion of a budget prepared without taking into account the effects of the catastrophic floods would not be of much use. I am glad that the Financial Secretary's speech prepared since that time has taken as reasonable a view of the altered situation as was humanly possible within the short time that has elapsed, especially in view of the fact that, owing to the interruption of communications, information from the flooded areas has been very scanty. On the 10th, the Dewan said that the Government would put their hands deep into their pockets to alleviate the distress caused by the floods and that the Government would not mind any financial dislocation that might be occasioned thereby. The same assurance was given by the Dewan when he presided at the public meeting held in this hall the other day to concert measures for taking relief to the affected areas. The Financial Secretary's speech contains the same assurance in stronger terms. He says:

"The Government consider it their primary duty to render all the help they can to relieve distress and to facilitate the task of reconstruction."

I congratulate the Government on the good-will which it has so far shown. Sir, I fully agree with the Financial Secretary when he says that the single-handed efforts of the Government alone cannot fully or adequately meet the grave situation caused by the floods. The general public must certainly co-operate. But I cannot agree with him when he says that *a great deal* depends on the generosity of the general public. The general public of the affected areas have already done even much more than their means would allow. They are themselves reduced to poverty. The general public of the un-affected areas alone can be expected to do something. But even they cannot do *a great deal*. So, if the Government expect *a great deal* from the general public, the Government would be miscalculating the weight of their burden; the Government would be shoving their responsibilities to other shoulders.

Sir, the distress in the affected areas is very great. The paddy cultivation of all the affected areas is completely destroyed. I am an eye-witness to the state of affairs in Kuttanad and Shertallai. I remained about four days in Shertallai and visited most places. All our paddy fields are under water even now, and the paddy cultivation of the whole taluk is completely washed away. The northern half of the taluk and some low-lying portion of the southern half were submerged for about

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

nine days, and about ten thousand houses had to be deserted, there being from four to eight feet of water in them. Some of these houses are completely destroyed. The occupants of these houses had to recede to the interior and assemble under the roofs of public buildings or sheds. Although the people had to flock to elevated places for rescuing their lives from the second of this month onwards, the local Tahsildar opened his eyes only on the 11th and the starvation would have been much greater but for the generosity of some of the well-to-do people in the neighbourhood. In localities where there were no well-to-do people, the suffering of the afflicted was very great. The northern half of the taluk, where relief was most needed, was practically neglected till the acting Tahsildar took charge on the 14th afternoon. This gives the reason why the Press Note placed in our hands says, so far as Shertallai is concerned: "No details are available about the economic disturbances caused or the measures adopted for their relief." It is the above fact that would explain the appearance of that short sentence in the Press Note. If the paddy cultivation of the taluk has been destroyed, the main industry of the poor is taken out of their hands. The husks from which coir-yarn is made and which form the industry of the poor have been carried away by the floods. The cocoanut trees of the flooded areas are deeply hit. The fronds and tender cocoanuts are beginning to fall off. For one year at least the cocoanut trees of the flooded areas will not be able to yield enough even for their up-keep. In Shertallai the situation is very grave and it will continue to be so. A large percentage of the population are without work. The Kanni crops have failed, and the cocoanut husks have been washed away. The rich people are not able to give work to the poor or to feed them. The merchants are raising the prices of food-stuffs and exploiting the new situation. The only hope of the people is the carrying out by the Government of the assurances which they have held out. Taxes on paddy fields will have to be remitted entirely. Taxes on cocoanut gardens of the affected areas will have to be remitted at the least in part. Agricultural loans will have to be given on a larger scale and on better lines. I would urge the necessity of taking up immediately such works as the Alleppey-Shertallai canal and commencing work at other points besides the two ends. If the roads to Arur and Arukutti and the canal from Muttattu *Kayal* are undertaken, the poor in different places may be able to earn something. Public Works as famine works must be undertaken in different parts of the taluk not only of Shertallai but in other affected areas. I am afraid that our present Chief Engineer, in spite of the fat salary that he draws, is the most unfit man for a crisis like this. In my opinion, Sir, he is very slow. He takes time to move.

PRESIDENT: I do not think you are justified in attacking a member of this House like that. You should not make a personal charge against the member.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I am not making any personal charge, but I am speaking only about the Chief Engineer. As

the head of the Public Works Department, I cannot but say to this House that he is a complete failure. Last year he said that there was a provision for the bridge at Kattāchira in Shertallai. But where is the bridge now? Nothing has been done towards its construction. Certainly the floods might not have washed away the bridge. He is of very great service to the Financial Secretary for preparing a surplus budget, because, Mr. George knows him well and he can make his calculations on the surrenders from the Public Works Department. So my opinion is that some capable executive officer should be put at the head of affairs to manage the famine relief work and other public works.

Then, something must be done to prevent the raising of the prices of food-stuffs by merchants. To meet this difficulty, the Government must get down some rice; two ship-loads of rice should at once be ordered. Depôts should be established in important centres to prevent the raising of the price by local merchants. I am sure that the Government will do all that lies in its power to alleviate the sufferings of the people. But the difficulty lies with some departmental heads, like the Chief Engineer, and a good number of subordinate servants. Sir, your kindness to the subordinate officials is too much and the oppression that the people undergo on that account is too great. This is a time for strong action and effective administrative control. (*Hear, hear.*)

Next, turning to our educational system, Sir, I think there is something fundamentally wrong about it. We are flooding the streets with graduates and undergraduates, and they are running from office to office asking for employment. In what way is this problem going to be solved is an enigma. Unless the educational system is thoroughly overhauled and some new system of the education, whereby the people would be able to earn their livelihood, is introduced, I think the present system will work more to the detriment of the country.

Then one word about the journalism of our country. In spite of what some of our journalists might say against me and in spite of the abuse that, I am sure, will be levelled against me by some vernacular papers for what I am going to say, I cannot, as a lover of the country, help saying that it is high time that something is done to improve the tone of journalism in this land. It is highly regrettable that some of our vernacular journalists write and publish things which it would be a sin to allow our boys and girls to read. Such obscene things are published by some of the local newspapers. Some of our papers are certainly very respectably conducted by respectable men.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*)
May I know whether the member would recommend the censorship of the press?

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it is within the province of the budget discussion to attack the Press of the country unless it is the case of the member that the tone of the Press to which he objects bears on any administrative problem.

[Mr. Joseph Panjikaran.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I think, Sir, it is one of the serious administrative problems that we have to face, because the good morals and the welfare of the people of the country are the most important problems that any Government have to consider. So it is that I draw the attention of this House to the fact that some articles appearing in the vernacular newspapers are such as would not be conducive to the good morals of the State. Obscene language must not be tolerated.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will he please mention the name of the paper?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I do not mean to do so at present.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know whether he recommends the enactment of a Press Law?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): No, I do not recommend that. But, something should be done to improve the tone and to prevent the publication of obscene articles. It is more in the interests of the young generation that I say that something must be done in this direction.

Coming to the public service, many of my previous speakers have spoken sufficiently about it and about the predominance of the Brahmin element in the public service. And it is a fact. If the Brahmin heads of departments had been wise I think they would not have gone to such an extent to favour their castemen as to create a feeling of hatred and enmity in the minds of other castes. It is their actions that are undermining their position in the land. Of course for some time you may be gainers. But in the long run do you think, Sir, that the people of Travancore will be coolly suffering all this injustice? There will come a time when there will be such a revulsion of feeling and I think it will be to the detriment of the Brahmin community. Prudence is the better part of valour. So, in their own interests I would advise them not to carry on the policy which they have been pursuing hitherto, but to be fair to all communities.

Another point I wish to speak is about the corruption of our subordinate officials. The floods have now already done us a good deal of injury. People do not know the wherewithal to make both ends meet. Parents do not know how to feed their children. They do not know how to send them to school. Under these circumstances our subordinate officials roam about the villages and find *porambokes*, where there are none, and at the same time say: "If you give me something, I shall not make *porambokes*." These officers are doing a great deal of injury. Even when I went over to Shertallai last time, many an honest man whose veracity cannot be questioned told me that the Assistant Tahsildar and his subordinates were doing a good deal of injury to them. Some of these *porambokes* I myself inspected within the short time at my disposal. In some of those *porambokes*, there are trees ninety or one hundred years old. All these trees are included in the

porambokes. And the subordinate officials say: "If you consider us favourably, we will see that the *porambokes* are not found there." (*Laughter.*) I do not say this with any intention of playing to the gallery. I say these are things which oppress the people very much. For the rich man the payment of three or four rupees is nothing. But to the poor man it is a very great sum. It is a very great oppression to the poor man to be asked to pay this sum. If the work of the Assistant Tahsildars is stopped until at least the flood distress is over, it will be a great boon to Travancoreans.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I may at the very outset congratulate the Government on the prompt and vigorous measures they have taken for affording relief to the distressed in the recent devastating floods and for facilitating the task of reconstruction. We are glad that the Government have made an additional provision of three lakhs of rupees for repairs to public works damaged by the floods. We are considerably reassured by the statement that, if more funds are found to be necessary, the Government would be glad to provide the same. The additional provision of four lakhs of rupees now made for the restoration of agriculture in the affected areas would scarcely be sufficient considering the great damage done to agriculture. The Government must be prepared to find out additional funds for completing the restoration and reconstruction works. Therefore, they must scrutinise every item of expenditure and see whether it is indispensable. If it is not, it must be omitted. The unforeseen calamity has necessitated strict retrenchment and economy. Besides the reasons given above, the fact that, since the disaster has considerably affected our sources of income, our anticipated receipts will in all probability not be realised, must put us on our guard about our expenditure. Therefore, as I said already, we must apply our pruning knife to every item that is not indispensable. Applying that test, we must do away with the posts of Assistant Superintendents of Police, Assistant Tahsildars, Excise Sub-Inspectors, etc., the necessity of whose creation has not yet been made out.

Turning next to a review of the administration of the different departments of the State, our attention is drawn at once to some of the important characteristic defects of these departments. The first topic I wish to touch upon is the overwhelming predominance of foreigners in the public service. I do not suggest that this has been brought about in a single day or during a single administration. This is the cumulative effect of a policy pursued by foreign Dewans without break or remorse. The climax has been reached recently when the headship of most of the important departments has been captured by foreigners. The head of the administration is a foreigner, and the heads of the Public Works, Police, Military, Medical, Survey, Anchal, Education, Maramat, Land Revenue, Land Records Maintenance, Ayurveda and Archaeology Departments are all foreigners. Besides this, most of the important appointments carrying high salaries are held by foreigners. The Principal of the Arts College and most of the Professors are foreigners. In fact the public service is practically in the hands of foreigners who shape

[Mr. M. N. Pillai]

or control the policy of the Travancore administration to its great detriment. The drain on the resources of the country is immense and the loss to national self-respect and national honour is equally great. These facts were brought to the notice of the Dewan several times, and yet the reply given was an affront to the intelligence of the people. The injury caused by this foreign preponderance is admitted; but a very modest demand to retire those foreigners who have put in 25 years' service and have earned their pension was refused. A request was made in the name of justice on behalf of forty lakhs of people. The existence of injustice was not denied, but a request to remove it was refused for the reason that the removal of this injustice affecting forty lakhs of people morally and materially would involve injustice to a few individuals! Is it injustice to ask a man who is in occupation of an office for over one quarter of a century and has earned his pension to yield the ground to its rightful claimant? The admission of evil should be followed by action directed to its immediate removal. The feeling over this inequity of foreign domination is very bitter and strong; and if the Government are not prepared in some manner or other to remove or mitigate this evil, there is every likelihood of this calm and peaceful Council being forced to share the vehemence of popular feeling.

Another point in connection with this is the predominance of Brahmins in the various departments of the State. It is very difficult for non-Brahmins to get admission to certain departments such as Education, Engineering and some others. The answers which have been supplied to my interpellations on this point would clearly bear out my statement. There was no time when Brahmin predominance has been so keenly felt as in the present administration. It is extremely shameful when people are crying hoarse over this matter that appointments of more Brahmins are being merrily made in the Education and Engineering Departments. The Government had the hardihood to confirm recently eight or nine non-Travancorean Brahmins as teachers when qualified Travancoreans were knocking unsuccessfully at the door of the department. The active encouragement which the erring Brahmin heads of departments get at the hands of the Brahmin Dewan is responsible for this extreme iniquity. The only solution for this problem is the one suggested by Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar, namely, to have Selection Boards or Competitive Examinations and to insist on the non-entertainment of members of the community that is largely represented in the service till an equitable proportion of appointments has been given to the members of other communities.

The treatment that the Travancorean officers in service receive at the hands of the foreign Dewan is so notorious that I do not wish to dwell upon it again now. The facts about the Professorships in the College and the pay given will amply illustrate this. Not only is this communal consideration seen in the case of appointments and promotions, but it is seen in the matter of punishments also. I would urge that all officers, however high they may be, who exhibit this kind of

corruption and nepotism, should be considered to be unfit to hold any responsible position and sent away from the service. The bold action taken by the Mysore Government should be followed here also.

Another point I wish to refer to is the most unwarranted and unjust differentiation made in the pay of appointments when they are held by Indian foreigners and Travancoreans. The Dewan said in the course of one of his Assembly Addresses that the "service in Travancore is none too extravagantly paid and the higher the standard of qualification needed for the discharge of duties of increasing complexity, the higher must be the wages paid." This was followed by the sudden rise in the pay of the Sanitary Commissioner and by raising the pay of the Dewan to a preposterous height. But when appointments happen to be held by Travancoreans, the pay of those officers is reduced. The pay of the Conservator of Forests, Director of Industries, the Brigade Medical Officer and the Sanitary Commissioner—these are conspicuous examples. On the other hand, when Indian foreigners are appointed to high offices, the pay that was given to their European predecessors is given to them without stint or reserve. The Darbar Physicians used to be European Military Officers who, for special reasons, should have reached the grade of Major or Lt. Colonel before they were appointed Darbar Physicians. The pay that they were entitled to in British India, with but a small addition, was given to them. Why should an Indian foreigner be given this concession and why should this be refused to a Travancorean? The pay of the Chief Engineer was raised as a special case in the case of Mr. F. J. Jacob from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200. Why should Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar be given this special pay and why should this be denied to a Travancorean? This is an unmerited slur on the character and capacity of Travancoreans.

Sir, all these are due to the fact that Travancore is being administered by a foreign Dewan. Salvation from these iniquities will come when Travancore is administered by a Travancorean who feels the patriotic instinct of serving his country and the people with devotion and justice.

Corruption is rampant in the public service and the depth of moral degradation to which the services have fallen now had never before been reached. The indiscriminate defence of wrong on the part of public servants has tended to the belief that the services will be protected under all conditions and circumstances. The policy adopted elsewhere of screening public services from exposure and punishment on grave political reasons is wrongly imitated here. During the last few years, there has been no instance of an officer being prosecuted for corruption. The policy of screening Government officials from blame has tended to increase corruption, and the refusal of the Government to place before the public documents having a suspicious odour about them have aggravated the tendency to corruption. The idea is erroneous that the services belong to the Government and that the people have nothing to do with them except to cry over their misdeeds like a cow crying over its lost calf.

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjittomman.]

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): മൂലം മാണുഷത്തെ ബന്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വിചാരം ചെയ്യാൻ ഭാവിയിലേയ്ക്കുള്ള രാജ്യമൊട്ടു വിശിഷ്ട ഉത്തരവിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചായി സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വലിയ ജപ്രവാഹത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും അതിനിമിത്തമുള്ള കഷ്ടതകളുടെ പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും പ്രസ്താവിക്കാതെ കടന്നുപോകാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിലെ വലിയ നദികൾ കരകവിഞ്ഞു പ്രവഹിച്ചതിനാൽ ഉത്തരവിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും കൃഷിക്കും കന്നുകൂലികൾക്കും ഭവനങ്ങൾക്കും, എന്നുവേണ്ടി മനുഷ്യക്കുടുംബം അനവധിനഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിവരം എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കു പരിഹാരം വരുത്തുവാനായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിൽനിന്നും വേണ്ട സഹായങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യാൻ തക്കമുണ്ടെന്നറിയുന്നതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ സമാധാനവും ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനോടു അധിക കൃതജ്ഞതയുമുണ്ട്. ഇതിലേക്കുള്ള വായങ്ങൾ അസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ പരിണമിക്കാതെ ഇരിപ്പാൻ പ്രത്യേകം സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവർക്കു ലോൺ കൊടുപ്പാൻ പോകുന്നു എന്നും അതു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾവഴി ആകാമെന്നാണ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതെന്നും അറിയുന്നു. എന്നാൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം എന്നുള്ളതു വളരെ നല്ല ഏർപ്പാടാണെന്ന് അതിന്റെ നാമം കൊണ്ടു തോന്നാം. ഇവിടത്തെ സ്ഥിതി ഒന്നു പ്രത്യേകമാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ കഷ്ടത അധികം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു ഉത്തരവിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ നദീതീരങ്ങളിലും മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കട്ടനാടു മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുമാണ്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ 'വളരെകുറവാണ്'. ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളിലധികവും വർഗ്ഗീയസംഘങ്ങളാണ്. ജപ്രവാഹം നിമിത്തം ആപത്തുകൾ സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് ദേശീയമായിട്ടാണല്ലോ. ഈ ആപത്തിനു ലോൺ കൊടുക്കാൻ വല്ലിടത്തും വർഗ്ഗീയമായുള്ള പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വേണ്ടവർക്കു ഈ ലോൺ കിട്ടുകയില്ല. സിവിൽസർവ്വൈ ഏർപ്പാടിൽ മുന്പുണ്ടായ പോലെ അഴിമതികളും ഉണ്ടാകും. മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിക്കാക്കു വലിയ സംഖ്യകൾ കൊടുക്കാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതും അത്രശരിയല്ല. മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി സ്ഥാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു എത്രയും പരിമിതമായ സ്ഥലത്താണ്. ആകെ കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവരിൽ വളരെ കുറച്ചുപേർമാത്രമേ പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കൂ. അധികവും നാട്ടുപുറത്തായിരിക്കും. പട്ടണവാസികൾക്കു ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ ധരിപ്പിച്ചു കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യവാങ്ങുവാൻ പ്രാപ്തികൂടും.

നാട്ടുപുറത്തുകാക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടം ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ വളരെ പ്രയാസമുണ്ട്; അതുകൊണ്ട് താലൂക്കു സംഘങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അതുവഴി ലോൺ കൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ ഉത്തമമായിരിക്കും. താലൂക്കിൽ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളും പട്ടണവാസികളും ഉൾപ്പെടും. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവർക്കും സഹായം ലഭിക്കും. റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണരുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ പേപ്പർക്കാരന്മാരും മറ്റും അതതു സ്ഥലത്തു് അനേകപണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയും താലൂക്കു തഹശീൽദാർമാരും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളും ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി അതിൽനിന്നു ലോൺ കൊടുത്തുസഹായിക്കുവാൻ വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തതും ചെയ്യുന്നതായിരിക്കും ഉത്തമം; അങ്ങനെയൊക്കെയാണു് പക്ഷം വേണ്ടവർക്കു ലോൺ കിട്ടുന്നതാണു് ഒരു താലൂക്കിലുള്ള തഹശീൽദാർ, ഡാക്ടർ, മുൻസിഫ്, ഇവരും ജനപ്രതിനിധികളും ഈ കമ്മിറ്റിയിൽ അടങ്ങിയിരിക്കണം. ഭൂരിപക്ഷം അനുജ്ഞാഗ്രഹണമായിരിക്കണം. എന്നാൽ പോലീസുമുതലായ ചില ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകാരെ ഇതിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിച്ചാൽകൊള്ളാം.

(Laughter)

രണ്ടാമതായി പറയാനുളളതു് പൊതുവിൽ ചിലവു ചുരുക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യത്തേയും വിധത്തേയും പററിയാണ്. ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള കഷ്ടതകളെല്ലാം നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിലെ അധികച്ചിലവു നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം ചുരുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. നൂതനനികുതി ഇനിയും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടത്തിലാകും. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വഹിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം ടോൾഗേറ്റ് പീസ് മുതലായ ചിലപുതിയ നികുതികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയും പഴയതിൽ ചിലതിന്റെ നിരക്കു കൂട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യത്തിലാണ് സ്ഥിതിചെയ്യുന്നത്. രാജ്യത്തിലെ മുതലെടുപ്പിലൂടെ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യം നാശിക്കുന്നതാകുമ്പോൾ അതിനുള്ളത് രാജ്യത്തിനു ദോഷകരമായ കാര്യമാണ്. ജനങ്ങൾ അധികവും കൃഷിക്കാരാണല്ലോ. നിലം, പുരയിടങ്ങൾ ജനസംഖ്യപോലെ വളർക്കുന്നില്ല. ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നു കൂടുതൽ വിളവുണ്ടാക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം കൃഷിക്കാരെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ സാമർത്ഥ്യപൂർവ്വം ജോലി ചെയ്യുന്നതായി വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല. ഇതുംവ്യയത്തിനുള്ള ഒരുപദ്ധതിയെന്നല്ലാതെ ഒരുവിധത്തിലും കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിക്കുകുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെപ്പറ്റി പട്ടണവാസികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ചെറിയതൊറിലാണു് ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കാം; എന്നാൽ നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലെ കൃഷി

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

ക്കാക്കുപരക്കെ ഇതുപ്രയോജനരഹിതമായ വകുപ്പാണെന്നാണ് വിചാരം. അതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോൾ ധനപരിപോഷണകമ്മിറ്റിയുണ്ട്. അതും ധനപരിശോഷണത്തിനല്ലാതെ ധനപരിപോഷണത്തിന്നുതന്നെല്ല. കൃഷി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു പോലെ അതു വളരെ ധനവും കാലവും വ്യയം ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും വ്യവസായ വകുപ്പും പ്രയോജനപ്രദമായ കാര്യങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഐശ്വര്യമുദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന വ്യയങ്ങൾ സഫലങ്ങളായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഓരോ സ്ഥിതിക്കു നികുതികൂട്ടുന്നതു കഷ്ടമാണ്. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരാതെ തിരികാൻ ഉള്ള ഒരു മാർഗ്ഗം നൂതനനികുതികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്താതിരിക്കുകയാകുന്നു. ചിലനികുതികൾ അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയവ കറയേണ്ടതാണ്. ശമ്പളച്ചിലവു ചുരുക്കി മാത്രം നികുതി വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ കഴിക്കാം.

ഈരാജ്യത്തെ പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലേയും ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകൾ വളരെ ചുരുക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും ആയിരം രൂപായിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള അധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ വേണ്ട. ഫൈനക്കോടതി ജഡ്ജി, പോലീസുകമ്മീഷണർ, ചീഫ് എൻജിനീയർ, എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ മുതലായ ഒന്നാംതരക്കാർക്ക് ൭൦൦ രൂപാമുതൽ ൧൦൦൦ രൂപാവരെയും രണ്ടാംതരക്കാരായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റാധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ൫൦൦ മുതൽ ൭൦൦ വരെയും മൂന്നാം തരക്കാർ ൩൦൦ മുതൽ ൫൦൦ വരെയും കൊടുത്താൽ ധാരാളം മതിയാകുന്നതാണ്. “ചുവർ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലെ ചിത്രമെഴുതാവൂ” എന്നൊരു പഴഞ്ചൊല്ലുണ്ട്. ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഐശ്വര്യമുണ്ടെങ്കിലേ രാജ്യത്തിനു അഭ്യുന്നയിയുള്ളൂ.

സാനിറ്ററി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റും മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റും ഒന്നിച്ചു ചേക്കാം. നാട്ടിൻപുറങ്ങളിലുള്ള സാംക്രമികരോഗങ്ങളെ അവിടത്തെ മെഡിക്കലാഫീസറാണ് അറിയുന്നത്. അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട പ്രതിവിധി ഡാക്ടർതന്നെ നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെല്ലാം ഗ്രാമസമ്പ്രദായമാണ്. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ സാനിറ്ററി ഏർപ്പാട് ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിരിക്കാം. ഇവിടെ അതു വേണ്ട. അതുകൊണ്ടു ചിലവുചുരുക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാനിറ്ററി കമ്മീഷണരെ അടുത്ത കാലത്തു മെഡിക്കൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു വലിയ ഓഴിവിൽ നിയമിച്ചാൽ മതി അങ്ങിനെ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ പിരിച്ചു വിടാതെ കഴിയും. (ചിരി) സാനിറ്ററി വകുപ്പിലെ ചെറിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തെ ഡാക്ടർമാരുടെ കീഴിൽ വെച്ചാൽ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെക്കാൾ നന്നായി

നടക്കും. റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ പേഷ്കാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഡവിഷൺ സിസ്റ്റിൻറന്മാർ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലികൾ ചെയ്യാൽ മതി. അവർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ദേവസ്വം കാര്യം നോക്കേണ്ടല്ലോ. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ കൂടാതെത്തന്നെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നടത്തും. അദ്ദേഹം പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു അഡ്വക്കേണാക്ക് ട്രഷററിയായിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം അഴിമതികളെ കുറച്ചുവരുന്നു. പക്ഷെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ട്രഷറി മുക്കിലും താഴെയും അധികം പതിയാതെ ഇടത്തരത്തിലുള്ള തഹശീൽദാർമാരുടെ നേക്കാണ് അധികവും പതിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നത്. Laughted അത് അചിരേണമറുള്ളവരുടെ നേക്കും പതിയുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. അഴിമതിയിൽ തഴമ്പിച്ചവരായി ഡിവിഷണാഫീസുകളിലും താലൂക്കുകളിലും പലരും ഇരിപ്പുണ്ട്. അഴിമതിക്കാരെ എല്ലാം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചു പിരിച്ചു വിടുകതന്നെ വേണം. അദ്ദേഹം കുറെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു കൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ അതു തുറന്നു പറയുന്നത്. മറ്റു പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലും ധാരാളം അഴിമതികൾ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അത് സർവ്വകലാശാലയിൽ പലരും ഫീരെ അറിയുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് ഭാവിക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ ആരെല്ലാമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ പറയരുതല്ലോ.

മൂന്നാമതായി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളത് പബ്ലിക് സർവീസിന്റെ ശുചീകരണത്തെ പറ്റിയാണ്. അതിൽ വളരെ മാലിന്യങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ട്. പ്രജാസഭയിലും നിയമസഭയിലും പബ്ലിക് സർവീസിന്റെ മാലിന്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ മുഴങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. മിക്കവാറും എല്ലാ മെമ്പറന്മാരും അഭിപ്രായം യോജിച്ചതായോടു കൂടി വാദിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പ്രശ്നമാണ് ഇത്. ഇതുവളരെ മാലിന്യങ്ങളുണ്ടോ എന്നു ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് പക്ഷത്തിൽ നിന്നും ശക്തികൾ പിരിക്കാം. അനുഭവമാണല്ലോ പ്രധാനം. അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്ക് ഇതിലധികം മാലിന്യം വരാനില്ലെന്നാണ് അഭിപ്രായം. ഇതുനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങളുടെ മാനത്തിനും ധനത്തിനും വേണ്ടരക്ഷയില്ല. പണ്ടേതന്നെ കൂടുതൽ നികുതിചുമത്തിയതുനിമിത്തം ജനങ്ങളെല്ലാം കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുകയാണ്. ജലപ്രവാഹവും ഇപ്പോൾ പീഡിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും പ്രജകളെ തെക്കിപ്പിഴിയാൻ ഒരിക്കലും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അനുവദിക്കരുത്.

ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ ഉൾനാടുകളിൽ സഞ്ചരിച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടേയും അഭിപ്രായം ചോദിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരെ ഈ അഴിമതിക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കുകയാണ് ഒന്നാമതു വേണ്ടതെന്നു അവർ പറയുന്നു. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റ് അഡ്വക്കേണാർ ഇതു കാണുന്നില്ലെന്നാണ് നടിക്കുന്നത്. പക്ഷെ അവർ ശരിയായിട്ട് അറിയുന്നില്ലെന്ന് പറ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjittomman.]

യാൻ പാടില്ല. കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുന്നതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റാലുള്ളതാൻ കാണുന്നില്ലാമിരിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ അതു നടക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന് അവർ വിചാരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. കണ്ണിനടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന മുക്ക് ആരും നേരിട്ടു കണ്ണുകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നില്ലെങ്കിലും അതുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാവരും അറിയാമല്ലോ. കണ്ണാടിയിൽ നോക്കിയാൽ കാണുകയുണ്ടാകും. അതുപോലെ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റാലുള്ളതാക്കും സർക്കിട്ടിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ ആ നേപക്ഷണം നടത്തിയാൽ കണ്ണാടിയിലെമ്പന്നവണ്ണം സ്പഷ്ടമായി അറിയാമെന്നു കണ്ടറിയാം. അന്യദേശീയനായ റവന്യൂ കമ്മീഷണർക്കുണ്ടല്ലോ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ പ്രയാസമുള്ളതു്. എന്നിട്ടും അദ്ദേഹം അറിയാമെന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിച്ചുവരുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങളെ ഉപദ്രവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്നു സുസ്ഥിരമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയോ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ക്ഷേമമോ ഉണ്ടാകില്ല. അറിയാമെന്നു കണ്ടറിയാൻ ഏതാനും ചില ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പിരിച്ചുവിടുമ്പോൾ മറ്റുള്ളവർ നല്ല പാഠം പഠിക്കും. അങ്ങനെ മുമ്പു കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. അല്ലാതെ കുററം ശരിയായി തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടു ശിക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചാൽ അതു പലപ്പോഴും സാധിക്കുകയില്ല. എത്ര തെളിഞ്ഞാലും തെളിഞ്ഞെന്നു മേലധികാരി സമ്മതിക്കുകയില്ല. ഒരുവിധം തെളിഞ്ഞാൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അവരെ സസ്പെൻഡ് ചെയ്തയോ ഡിസ്മിസ് ചെയ്തയോ വേണം. ജാതിത്തണലിലാണ് അറിയാമെന്നു അധികം വളർന്നു കാണുന്നത്. മേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ തങ്ങളുടെ വർഗ്ഗക്കാരാണ് കീഴ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെങ്കിൽ എങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും രക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളും. പരാതിവന്നാൽ തങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിയിൽ പെട്ട ജനങ്ങളോട് നമ്മുടെ ജാതിയിൽപെട്ട ആളല്ലയോ ചില ഭൂമുഖങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം ഉണ്ടായാലും ഇപ്പോൾ രക്ഷിക്കണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞും മറ്റും ചിലരെ സ്വാധീനപ്പെടുത്തി തെളിവുകൾപ്പോലും നോക്കും. മറ്റുസജാതീയരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും സഹായിക്കും ഉൾനാട്ടിലെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കുറഞ്ഞവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമം ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ അവർ അതിൽ പെട്ടു പോയേക്കാം.

നാലാമതായി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്, രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കും പ്രജകളിൽ എല്ലാ വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലേക്കും ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി പതിയണമെന്നാണ്. ഉത്തരതിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ അതിന്റെ ജനങ്ങളെയോ വിസ്തീർണ്ണത, നികുതി ഇവയോ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തന്നോ തക്കവണ്ണം റോഡുകൾ, വിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ, കൃഷിസേചനവേലകൾ മുതലായവ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെന്റു ശ്രദ്ധ

ചുകാണുന്നില്ല. ഉത്തരവിരുദ്ധവിതരണത്തിൽനിന്നും എത്രയോലക്ഷം രൂപാ നികുതിയായിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഭാഗത്തോ ഏതെങ്കിലും വട്ടത്തിനോ കഷ്ടതയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതു ഈ കൗൺസിൽ വഴിയായിട്ടാണ്. ഗവർണ്മെൻറ അക്കാശ്ശത്തിൽ വേണ്ടവിധം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പല വട്ടക്കാക്കും ഗവർണ്മെൻറ ജോഗത്തിൽ പ്രവേശനമില്ല. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് അധ്യക്ഷന്മാരിൽ പലരും ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനത്തിൽ തങ്ങളുടെ ജാതിക്കാരോടു പക്ഷപാതം പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനറിയാമോ എന്നു ഞാൻ മുമ്പു ഈ കൗൺസിൽ വഴി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനോടു ചോദിച്ചതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന് അറിവില്ലെന്നു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളുടെ പട്ടിക ചോദിച്ചു വരുത്തിയതിൽനിന്നും ഈ സംഗതി തെളിഞ്ഞിരിക്കയാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനറിവില്ലെന്നു പറവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എല്ലാ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും എല്ലാ വട്ടങ്ങളിലും ഉള്ളവരെ പബ്ലിക് സർവ്വീസിൽ യോഗ്യതാനുസരണം ചേർക്കാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉള്ള തടസ്സങ്ങളു തീർക്കണം. റവന്യൂ വേസവും വിഭജനം നടത്തിയ്ക്ക് എല്ലാവർക്കും അതിൽ പ്രവേശനം നൽകാനുണ്ടോ. വിഭജനശേഷം ൧൦ രൂപയ്ക്കുമേൽ ഉള്ള എത്ര ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായി എന്നു വർഗ്ഗം തിരിച്ച ഒരു പട്ടിക തയ്യാറാക്കുക എന്ന യോഗത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതനുസരിച്ചു തന്ന പട്ടിക പ്രകാരം ആകെ ൧൯൮ നിയമനങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായതിൽ ൧൩൮ പേരുടെതന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും എല്ലാം വഹിച്ചുവരുന്ന സവണ്ണരിൽ നിന്നും ആണെന്നു വെളിപ്പെട്ടു. വളരെ നാളത്തെ ശ്രമമാകാണ്ടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ വേർതിരിച്ചു. എന്നിട്ടും ഫലം ഇങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ കഷ്ടമല്ലേ! മലഹരിയെ പ്രസവിച്ചു എന്നുള്ള പഴഞ്ചൊല്ലുപോലെ ആയിജനങ്ങളുടെ പ്രതീക്ഷ. അതുപോലെതന്നെ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘവകുപ്പിൽ ൨൦ രൂപയ്ക്കു കൂടുതൽ ശമ്പളം ഉള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ജാതി തിരിച്ചുള്ള പട്ടിക ചോദിച്ചതിനു ൧൩ പേർ ഉണ്ടെന്നും ൧൦-ാം സവണ്ണരാണെന്നും മറുപടികിട്ടി. മറ്റുള്ളവർ പ്രവേശിക്കുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തവിധം പണ്ടത്തെ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പോലെ ഇതിലും വല്ലതും കൂടി ഘടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നോ? ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ രജിസ്ട്രേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ അധ്യക്ഷന്റെ നിയമനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് എന്റെ മാന്യസ്റ്റേഫിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ കഞ്ഞികൃഷ്ണപിള്ളയുടെ ചോദ്യത്തിനു ഇന്നലെ കിട്ടിയ മറുപടിയിൽ നിന്നും ആ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ വഴിയപക്ഷപാതം നല്ലവണ്ണം വ്യക്തമാകും. അതുപോലെതന്നെ

[Mr. Tariatu Kunjittomman.]

മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണയ്യർ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളുടെ അധിപതിയായി വന്നതിനുശേഷം ഉള്ള നി. മനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചോദിച്ചതിൽ ആ വകുപ്പിലുള്ള നി. മനമെല്ലാംതന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്വജാതിക്കാരെയാണെന്നു വ്യക്തപ്പെട്ടു. കഴിഞ്ഞ ൧൨ വർഷങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ ഹൈക്കോടതിയിൽ നിന്നുനടത്തിയ നിയമനങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി വർത്തിരിച്ചു ചോദിച്ചതിൽ അക്കണക്കുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ശ്രമത്തിനു തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള ഫലമില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞൊഴിഞ്ഞു. കണക്കുകിട്ടിയെങ്കിൽ മറ്റുള്ളവയ്ക്ക് നീതിയുടെ ഭ്രാന്തമായിരിക്കേണ്ട ഹൈക്കോടതിയുടെ നിലമുറിയായിരുന്നു. എന്തായാലും ഹൈക്കോടതിയിലെ ക്ലർക്കുമാരിലായവരിൽ മഹാഭൂരിപക്ഷവും സവണ്ണരാണെന്ന് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. ഞാൻ ഒരു സമുദായത്തെയും അവഗണിച്ചു പറയുന്നതായി ആരും തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ബ്രാഹ്മണരായാലും നായന്മാരായാലും കൃഷ്ണപ്രാണികളായാലും എല്ലാവരും രാജ്യമാകുന്ന മഹാഭവനത്തിലെ തുല്യാവകാശമുള്ള സമോദരന്മാരാണെന്നും അവരുടെ ഇടയിൽ പരസ്പരവിദ്വേഷവും അസൂയയും ജനിക്കരുതെന്നുമാണ് ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈവിധ നിയമനങ്ങൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ തെറ്റല്ലാതെ ഏതെങ്കിലും വർത്തിന്റെ തെറ്റുകൊണ്ടാണ് നടക്കുന്നതെന്നെനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല. എല്ലാ വർഷങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും പബ്ലിക് സർവ്വീസിൽ ന്യായാനുസരണങ്ങൾ ആളുകളെ നിയമിച്ചാൽ മാത്രമേ നന്മിന്റായും നടക്കാനും നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യം ധർമ്മരാജ്യമെന്ന പേരിനെ അർഹിക്കാനും തരമുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ അതിനായി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റു പരീക്ഷ വയ്ക്കുകയാണ് നല്ലതെന്ന് ചിലർക്കഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടു്. അതു ശരിയല്ല. ഒരു വലിയ ജനവിഭാഗത്തിനു കിട്ടേണ്ടതിന്റെ ൧൦-ൽ ൧ പോലുമില്ല. ആയിരംരൂപാ ൧൦ പേക്കായി കിട്ടേണ്ടതിൽ—

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): രീന്ദു; കറച്ചേയുള്ള. ന്ന ൦൦ രൂപയും ൩ പേർ എടുത്ത ശേഷം ബാക്കി ൧൦൦ രൂപയുള്ളത് എല്ലാവർക്കുംകൂടി പങ്കിട്ടു എടുത്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു പോലെ ആയിരിക്കും. ഇത് അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ സംപ്രദായം അതു ശരിയല്ല. സാധനങ്ങൾ തുകയും അളവും കൊടുക്കുന്നതുപോലെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൃത്യമായി വശംതിരിച്ചു പങ്കിടണമെന്നല്ല; ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിന്റെ താൽപര്യം; ആരും ആരും എന്ന തരത്തിൽ വലുതായ വ്യത്യാസം ഉള്ളതു ഭേദപ്പെടുന്നതുവരെ പ്രത്യേകം നിഷ്പഷ്ട വേണമെന്നാണ്.

വടക്കോട്ട റയിൽവേ സർവ്വചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഒരു സംഖ്യ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ടുണ്ടെന്നതിനു ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധി വഹിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനോടു നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ റയിൽവേ കൊട്ടാരക്കരയിൽ നിന്നും എറണാകുളത്തേയ്ക്കുണ്ടെന്നാണ് കാണുന്നത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടുപ്രജാസഭകളിൽ കൊട്ടാരക്കര മുതൽ പറവൂർ വരെയുള്ള മെമ്പർമാർചേർന്നു കൊട്ടാരക്കര ആലുവാ റൈൽവേ വേണമെന്നാണ് മെമ്പോറിയൽ സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. അങ്ങനെ ഒരു റയിൽവേ വരികയാണെങ്കിൽ ഉത്തരത്തിവിതാശ്ശിരിചെഗതാഗതസൗകര്യം വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനും ഒരു നല്ല സംഖ്യ പ്രതിവത്സരം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സൗകര്യമായി സാമാനങ്ങൾ കയറി ഇറക്കുന്നതിനും മാറ്റം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനും ഇടവരുന്നതാണ്. കായൽക്കരയിൽ കൂടി റയിൽവേ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ആളുകൾക്കു സാമാനം കയറിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വലിയ ഉപഗ്രഹമില്ല. കായലോരനിവാസികൾക്കു ചുരുങ്ങിയ കൂലിക്ക് ഒരു വള്ളത്തിൽ കയറി സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകാം. അതിനാൽ ഉൾഭാഗത്തു മെഴിൻറോഡിനടുത്തുകൂടി വേണം റയിൽവേ തുറക്കുവാൻ.

എനിക്കു ഒടുവാൽ പറയാനുള്ളത് എല്ലാജാതിമതസ്ഥർക്കും സർക്കാരും റോഡുകൾ ഇവയിൽ ഒരു പോലെയുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അനുവദിക്കണം എന്നാണ്. അത് രാജഭക്തന്മാരും ദേശാഭിമാനികളുമായ എല്ലാ പൗരന്മാരും ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിശ്വസ്തന്മാരായ പ്രതിനിധികളും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന കാര്യമാണ്. പലവർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കും പബ്ലിക് റോഡുകളിൽ പോലും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യമായി നടക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ല. വൈക്കത്തു നടക്കുന്ന സംഗതി രാജഭക്തന്മാരായ എല്ലാപ്രജകൾക്കും വ്യസനം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ്. പോലീസുകാർ റോഡിൽ കൂടി ജനങ്ങളെ നടക്കാൻ സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തടഞ്ഞു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണ്. അതു മതസംബന്ധമായ കാര്യമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അങ്ങനെയൊന്നെങ്കിൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റുതന്നെ ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു കൗൺസിലിൽ റെസല്യൂഷൻ സ്വീകരിക്കയില്ലായിരുന്നുവെല്ലോ. ഞാൻ മതാചാരത്തെ ധർമ്മസിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി പറയുന്നതല്ല. പബ്ലിക് റോഡാണെങ്കിൽ എല്ലാവർക്കും ഒരു പോലെ സഞ്ചാരസ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം അനുവദിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: ട്രൈം ആപ്പിൻ്റെ.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (Muvattupuzha): എന്നാൽ നിത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

MR. N. KUMARAN (Nominated): Sir, for the third time, we have got the financial proposals of the Government placed before us for our consideration and acceptance. On the previous occasions, the budget estimates were subjected in this House to a careful scrutiny and discussion.

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

which might probably have influenced the Government in framing this present budget with great caution and moderation. The past has taught us not to be oversanguine about the realisation of financial anticipations, as many economic forces, over which we have no control, may act and react against one another and falsify some of our predictions. It is, therefore, a sound policy for the budget-framer not to over-estimate our resources and under-estimate our revenue charges. A comparative study of the revenues of the State from 1093 will show that most principal heads of revenue are not likely to bring in an increase in the near future. Land revenue is decidedly stable and is more or less stationary. Receipts from excise are bound to go down in spite of the best efforts of the department to work out the policy of a maximum revenue for minimum consumption. There can be no steady increase in the forest revenue for several years to come. In fact, one need not be surprised if it goes lower still. Taxes on income are no doubt bound to increase, but the hopelessly slow rate at which our industries and commerce are being developed does not permit us to place much reliance on this source of our revenue either. On the other hand, we are bound to find funds for meeting the growing requirements of a progressive system of administration. It is a dead certainty that, year after year, under normal conditions, our expenditure will be increasing by an amount which will be between two and three lakhs of rupees. The Financial Secretary, while admitting that we are likely to have only deficits in the current year and in 1100, assures us that our financial position will not be wanting in either soundness or stability, when the abnormal conditions which have now disturbed all our calculations, have ceased to exist. On reviewing the accounts of revenue and expenditure for six years from 1093 to 1098 in his Appropriation Report for 1098, the Financial Secretary delivers himself, on incontrovertible grounds, of the opinion that,

"the only way to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position is to augment the revenue resources of the State and reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions."

This means that, if we do not augment our revenues and at the same time cut short our expenditure, our financial position will be anything but sound. It, therefore, necessarily follows that, with our normal revenue and expenditure, our finances are in a bad plight indeed. I do not, therefore, think that it is possible for this House to lay much store by the Financial Secretary's assurance I have referred to already.

But, meeting as we do, in the words of the Financial Secretary, "under the shadow of a great calamity" which is unprecedented in the memory of living men and which has caused wide-spread distress and laid waste vast areas in Central and North Travancore and in view of the admission made by Mr. George that the figures in the Revised Estimate for 1099 and the Budget Estimate for the next year are in great measure uncertain, I do not stop to consider the soundness or otherwise of these estimates. I consider that at this hour the sympathy and support of this House must go in full measure to those unfortunate fellow-citizens who have been caught up in the floods and who have

consequently lost their crops, homesteads, cattle and all other belongings. We are thankful for the promptness with which the Government allotted funds for the relief of distress and for the reconstruction and restoration of communications as provided for in the budget we are considering. But I am far from believing that these allotments, and the way in which they are proposed to be spent, will adequately meet all the requirements of the situation. Thousands of people are rendered homeless, their houses having been washed away by the floods. The devastation has rendered them absolutely indigent—at least a good portion. The problem of reconstruction is indeed difficult, but must be solved by the public and the Government. It will not be possible in all cases for the poor homeless refugee to apply for and obtain an agricultural loan for reconstructing his house and purchasing his livestock. I believe this House will agree with me when I say that this relief and reconstruction measures should not stop with feeding the refugees until the floods subside and the refugees return to their places in the devastated tracts and with the restoration of the lines of communication. Committees of reconstruction must be organised in important centres in the affected tracts and funds must be made available for rendering gratuitous aid to those of the homeless who are unable to help themselves. Each case requiring help must be considered separately and whatever is possible and feasible must be done without unnecessarily sacrificing public funds. The reconstruction and restoration will be slow and will at least take six months. My point is that gratuitous aid must be rendered to those who have lost most of their property and whose staying power is so little that, unless extraneous help is made available, they will continue to suffer for a long time to come. I am sure this Council will be prepared to vote funds for any reasonable scheme of gratuitous aid in the work of reconstruction and restoration.

Coming to the allotments for Education, I am thankful that Government have provided Rs. 45,000 for fee concessions. At the same time, I take exception to the recent G. O. which modified the concession scheme announced by the Government last year. During the general discussion on the budget last year, two learned non-official members of this House objected on principle to the fee concession. The Director of Public Instruction met their arguments and justified the concession on the ground that this encouragement was given to these communities as they were backward in English education, their literacy in English not coming even to one per cent. The Government immediately changed their opinion—a commendable and welcome frame of mind absent in most Governments, I am prepared to admit—and promised in this House four days later that they would re-examine the matter. The learned members I have already referred to made pointed reference to its obnoxiousness as Ezhava children were also brought under its beneficial operation. By a recent G. O. Government modified the earlier scheme as far as it affected the Ezhava children and left it intact mostly in respect of others including Mahomedans. Now, I protest against this very invidious distinction drawn by the Government between Ezhavas

[Mr. N. Kumaran.]

and other communities similarly situated. I should like to know, and I believe this House has a right to know, why the Government refused to give the Ezhava student the same privileges they are prepared to give to a Mahomedan student. How is one principle right in respect of one community and wrong when applied to Ezhavas? Is not the defect, which the Government wanted to remove by this encouragement, equally present in both these cases? Is it because one community did not deserve any consideration at their hands? I do not think that this House need be told the position which the Ezhava community occupies in the economy of the State. Most of the industries and handicrafts are in their hands. They are not "drones" in society, but the real producers of wealth besides contributing their own share to the State coffers as other communities do. I do not claim any credit for the contribution we make to the State revenue in the shape of abkari receipts. I wish the Ezhavas had nothing to do with that tainted revenue. I maintain therefore that it is the duty of the State to spend liberally from its funds, if such a community, from whatever reason, is backward in education. This principle has been recognised long ago in all civilised countries and even in Travancore. The belated application of that principle to the Ezhava community cannot make it either wrong or obnoxious. By the revised scheme, the chances of the Ezhava student getting this benefit are very few indeed as his poverty—a very difficult question by its nature—has to be decided by a committee of three, almost invariably consisting of three caste-Hindus, whose sympathy may not travel beyond the borders of their own castes.

I may also avail myself of this occasion to invite the attention of this Government and this House to the problem of recruitment to the public service in Travancore. This has been an old problem with us. The agitation over it for the first time took the form of the famous Malayali memorial which came to pass more than 40 years ago. As a result of that agitation, in which all communities had joined, some communities were abundantly benefited while others were kept out on grounds of caste and religion. The administration of the country was then slowly emerging from darkness into light; and from the time of Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao the claims of all communities to have due representation in the public service was openly admitted. But the communities—rather the persons who got in earlier—entrenched themselves in safe positions and adopted a rigorous policy of exclusion towards those who had to remain outside till then. At the time of Sir P. Rajagopalachari, it was found that the backward and depressed communities were still kept out, and that the heads of departments, having no sympathy towards these classes and bent upon helping their own men to the exclusion of all others, were not likely to take recruits from the excluded classes unless the Government interfered in every case. He accordingly issued circulars to heads of departments compelling them to give preference to applications for

posts from Ezhavas, Mahomedans and such other backward classes. The Dewan used to get down statements from the heads of departments and examine them. There was thus some restraint in those days upon the open denial of justice and fair dealing towards applicants from the backward classes. This circular was since that time slowly being neglected until it is now considered almost a dead letter. Soon after the present Dewan took charge of the administration, the importance of this problem was brought home to him and he publicly promised to constitute a Staff Selection Board and thereby give the quietus to this vexed question. This promise has not been fulfilled and the Government have not yet satisfied the public why such a Selection Board, which is working satisfactorily elsewhere, should not thrive on the Travancore soil. There can be no doubt that the constitution of a Selection Board as contemplated by the Dewan would encroach upon vested interests and I was almost sure that those interests would place difficulties in his way. But, in consideration of the wider questions and interests involved, I thought the idea would fructify and the Board be constituted. Personally speaking, I was not much in favour of such a scheme, believing that the interests of backward communities will be safer in the hands of the Head of the Administration than in those of the Selection Board. But the statistics regarding castewar appointments furnished to this House in answer to the interpellations of non-official members reveal a miserable tale of official vagaries, caste prejudices and a spirit of exclusion. These interpellations were made to impress upon the Government the necessity for their taking some drastic action against those of their subordinates who are exhibiting such wanton disregard to the claims of other communities. I believe that these figures must have convinced the Government that these heads of departments and other officers who are competent to appoint their subordinates are acting against the interests of other communities, especially against the applicants from communities like Ezhavas. Since we have all studied these statistics, I shall not take up the time of the Council by any detailed reference to them. For purposes of illustration, I shall take up the case of Ezhavas only. There is only one Ezhava, probably, an acting hand in a whole army of clerks, Superintendents etc., in the Account Office. The new Development Departments of Co-operation and Industries are following a policy of rigorous exclusion of the Ezhava. The former, after much hesitation, has now got an Ezhava Inspector newly appointed. The statistics from the Education Department reveal a similar state of affairs though the vernacular section is not so hopelessly bad. We are not getting adequate encouragement and representation in the Excise, Forest and Registration Departments. We have the same complaints to make respecting the Medical, Engineering and Agricultural Departments. The appointment of a hand here and another there, at the instance of the Government, will not afford adequate remedy for the widespread malady. There are departments which are still entirely untouched by the Ezhavas.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are there applicants for appointments in the various departments?

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): In the statistics furnished by the Government in respect of the Education Department, the number of applicants is also given. In respect of other statistics, the number of applicants is not given. From the figures available, I find that there was a large number of Ezhava applicants in the Education Department. But they were not appointed. If my friend wants information with respect to particular departments, I would be able to supply such information as I have.

Coming to the Land Revenue Department, I must say that the position is still worse. The Devaswom Department was separated at great cost to the tax-payer in order to give scope for the entertainment of the non-caste and non-Hindu sections of the population in the Revenue Department. Government have appointed an Ezhava as acting Tahsildar and a few Christians in similar positions and a Christian as Division Assistant. This is absolutely insufficient. As for the lower rungs of the Revenue service the statistics show that the classes for whose benefit the separation was effected are still far from getting anything better than small crumbs at long intervals. My submission is that this position is intolerable and that these statistics having been brought to the notice of the Government, if proper notice is not taken of the hostile attitude of these Government servants towards backward and unrepresented communities in the State service, they will be further emboldened to carry on more vigorously the same policy of exclusion and hostility. In spite of repeated representations at the sessions of the Popular Assembly, Government do not seem to have taken up this question for their serious consideration. It is the birthright of every citizen in a well-ordered State to have equal opportunity to serve the State to the best of his ability. The Travancore Government have adopted the same principle and stand for equality in rights and privileges and for affording equal opportunities for all. If that is so, one fails to comprehend how this Government can shut their eyes to the glaring injustice that is being done to various communities by their subordinate officers. My view is that it is moral corruption in a Government servant, though of a mild variety, not to view the applicants from all communities alike. In the face of these facts Government have no excuse for allowing this matter to lie over. Either a Staff Selection Board has to be constituted immediately or some other scheme has to be devised which should not leave the interests of unrepresented and backward communities to the tender mercies of Government servants who have established by their own conduct that they are unfit to exercise the right of appointment in their departments.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I would draw the attention of the Chair to the time.

PRESIDENT: I think we must adjourn now. I believe there are one or two speakers more on the non-official side.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I alone remain on this side of the House.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): I have also to speak.

PRESIDENT: There are then three gentlemen, including Mr. Ramankunju, on the non-official side who have yet to speak.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Khadir Pillai also wants to speak.

PRESIDENT: Yes, there are four more gentlemen to speak. We will adjourn and meet again at 3-15 P. M.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-14 P. M. and reassembled at 3-18 P. M.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, the close of the year has brought us round to the State budget, the last in the triennium forming the duration of the present Council. Some perplexity in the consideration and unevenness in the discussion of the budget estimate are inevitable owing to the unforeseen events which have occurred in the interval between its preparation and its presentation to the House. The elemental fury that was experienced recently in certain parts of Central and North Travancore has been a veritable foretaste of the final Deluge. In view of that circumstance, the Financial Secretary seems to be somewhat ill at ease and he has practically thrown up the cards—quite an unusual thing with him, declaring that he is not on sure grounds either with respect to the income or with respect to the expenditure. So, to select a ground and to draw the representative of the Government, I mean our esteemed friend the Financial Secretary, to a fight seems to be absolutely profitless. All the same he has assured us, Sir, that there need not be anything like serious anxiety on account of the finances of the State. It is that portion of his statement that has not been quite clear to me. If the finances of the State are to be regarded as mainly intended for the upkeep of the officers of the State, for the demonstration of some jerky sympathy on occasions like the present and also for leaving such margin as would permit leakages from Government treasuries, which seem to have become common occurrences now-a-days, then I can understand the statement of the learned Financial Secretary, but not in any other sense. But, if the finances are to be viewed from the point of utility to the general public, from the standpoint of the various needs of the State in general, then how the Financial Secretary can dare assure us that the finances are in no danger requires further explanation from him. With respect to my own place I would illustrate the inability of the representative of the Government in this matter to satisfy the needs of the country—needs which certainly would not be deemed as in any way illegitimate. For example, taking into consideration the lessons which we cannot afford to lose sight of and which have been borne in upon our minds by the recent occurrences in Central and North Travancore, I may point out the various needs and necessities staring us in the face. Just as the floods were rising and spreading we could only get a fragmentary

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

notion as to the magnitude and the intensity of the inundation in the affected parts. Even on the receipt of such information, we realised our utter inability to reach the distressed areas. Relief and rescue could not be carried to the actual centres of distress; so much so, we had to wait for a few days before anything could be done in the direction of real relief work being undertaken at the instance of those persons who happened to be at Trivandrum. In view of that fact, let me point out, Sir, the very serious necessity of connecting the northernmost point of Travancore—say Alwaye or Parur—with Kottarakara, and thus link the whole of the State by railways. (*Mr. Nidiry: Hear, hear.*) That is a problem which has often been rubbed in upon the attention of Government by my friend Mr. Nidiry, and the need for such communication has now been clearly demonstrated by the recent inundation in Central and North Travancore. No doubt, Government have in view the feasibility of opening two lines—one in South Travancore and the other in North Travancore. Those of us who happen to come from North Travancore request the representatives of South Travancore not to view the matter in any jealous spirit and we disclaim on our part all envy and jealousy towards South Travancore. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, who unfortunately happens not to be present to-day, suspected a spirit of jealousy on the part of the representatives of North Travancore towards South Travancore and protested that such a spirit should not be entertained by us. It is in sheer necessity that this question has been brought before this House. In all patience we have been looking on South Travancore getting such favours as South Travancore has got already and we were never opposed ourselves to the measures taken by Government to improve the lot of South Travancore. But to say that continuously South Travancore should alone be in the enjoyment of all benefits and that if the people of North Travancore occasionally raise their voice in the matter of their local necessities, it is likely to be viewed as an exhibition of jealousy, does not harmonize with the sort of spirit that we expect from South Travancore. So, that is one chief necessity that stands out in the present situation.

Another aspect of the same question relates to the lines of communication available in North and Central Travancore. No doubt there are a few lines of roads now available for communication; but the absolute inadequacy of such means of communication has again been painfully demonstrated in connection with the present disturbances. So far as my taluk is concerned, we have got only a few miles of road now existing, from Alleppey to Ambalapuzha, which is the outcome of a peculiar set of circumstances during the time of the late Dewan Mr. Shungarasubbier, who, as a matter of famine relief, opened that road. Apart from that line, and apart also from the Alleppey town, we have not even an inch of ground to be called a road. So much so we are pressing it upon the attention of our esteemed friend the Chief Engineer to take up in all seriousness the line from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi and to convert it

into a proper road. I have challenged, I recollect, Mr. Natesa Aiyar to walk on the road in question during winter without risk to his shins. But he did not undertake that experiment and has thus saved his shins. It is so slippery and so dangerous and useless, during the time when its use is much needed that, during the present floods, people had simply to depend on flimsy canoes so that they might go to any place of refuge.

Another line that the people in the low-lying tracts of Kuttanad have been pressing for—the request has not emanated exclusively from my taluk, the same being a request from the people of Tiruvalla and Changanachery as well—is a road good enough to connect Ambalapuzha with Tiruvalla, on the east. They have even formed an association specifically for the purpose of agitating this question with the Tahsildars of Tiruvalla and Ambalapuzha as parties interested in the same. That is a line which was originally intended by the Government to be opened during a previous administration; but, in the exigency of the needs of other parts of Travancore, one Chief Engineer, in his wisdom, thought that he would recommend the dropping of the scheme altogether, and the Government, under such circumstances, accepted with glee the recommendation of that particular Chief Engineer. When during the time of Sir. P. Rajagopalachariar a deputation waited upon him to urge again the necessity for that road, though he put them off by saying that for the time being it was out of the question, he advised them to keep up the agitation and gave them the parallel of his own experience, *viz.*, that in his own village though they had been agitating from the days of their forefathers for a particular road they had not succeeded in getting the same and that in spite of that they had not slackened their agitation with respect to it, so that some successor might find it possible to grant the request. With such sanguine outlook in that direction I am bringing to your notice, Sir, that a line of that description would prove highly useful to the population now inhabiting the low lying tracts in our place, as it would enable them, on the occasion of the repetition of a calamity similar to the one we have just experienced, to escape for life to the elevated lands on the eastern side of Kuttanad.

With respect to the existing roads and lines of communication also, I have to urge one aspect of the question. We see, for example, in the case of the road from Kottayam to Changanachery that a section of that road annually gets inundated and remains under water for nearly a month. Year after year this Council is approached for the necessary money to restore the road to its original condition. A good deal of it is washed away and a good deal stands in need of annual repairs. I raise the question, Sir, whether it is wise economy to keep that road in that condition and whether the Public Works Department should refuse to profit by past experience with respect to that line. If it is not due to the low order of professional efficiency obtaining in the department, I ask why it is that this road is kept exposed to annual inundation like that and why such an amount of recurring expenditure is annually incurred. Cannot the P. W. D. take steps to see that the annual recurring expenditure of such a large amount is obviated? That is

[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

the question which I have to raise in connection with that matter.

Again, with respect to the recent floods I would invite the attention of the Agricultural Department and ask them whether they are quite ready to help the farmers and cultivators in Kuttanad and other places. My own apprehension is that the department may not be ready, for in spite of the various experiments about which much is being dinned into our ears year after year, regarding such an ordinary matter as to what other sort of paddy than the one now grown there would suit Kuttanad, I do not know whether the department has a ready answer. This is a very commonplace affair and without elaborate laboratory work the matter could have been experimented and decided. But it remains to be seen how far the department is capable of assisting the farmer and the agriculturist in the matter.

I desire to thank you, Sir, in this connection in your capacity as Dewan of the State, for your readiness to assist the suffering population, foreseeing the serious difficulties that they would be exposed to in connection with the cultivation that has to be carried on in the affected areas. The grant of Rs. 4 lakhs by way of agricultural loans, as was pointed out by Mr. Kunjitomman, you should not expect to be spent through the Co-operative societies exclusively, for, Co-operative societies do not, as a matter of fact, exist in various places and the difficulty of the loan reaching the hands of the needy people has also to be taken into consideration. Of course, Rs. 4 lakhs may not be sufficient in order to see that the whole area usually cultivated in the devastated centres is cultivated next year also. For that contingency, there is the hold on your promise that you are ready to place another supplementary grant at the disposal of the people so that they may restore the cultivation of all the paddy fields in question.

Then another department about which I have to say a word is the department of our friend, Mr. Dhanukoti. The greatest damage that has been caused to the population at large is with respect to houses and huts. In some parts, especially in Chenganur and higher up in Ranni and other places, the mischief has been done mainly, not so much by the trees and rivers as by the timber which ought to have been kept under the control of the department of Mr. Dhanukoti. What is said is that logs of timber that were floated down by the rivers were found ramming themselves against the houses. Many of the houses thus happened to be disjoined and washed away. Mr. Dhanukoti's department, therefore, certainly owes a duty to the population concerned. He must be ready to help the population that has suffered by the inrush of water and by the serious havoc played by his trees and timbers, by supplying the necessary logs of timber and building materials to them. But I fear he is not in a mood to do that (*laughter*), for, as I understand, just when the floods were about to subside, he proceeded to the flooded areas and he seems to have given out contracts for the collection of the drift wood, timber and jungle wood, quite useless

for any serious purpose—promising Rs. 2 per candy for collecting them at the Viyapuram Depot. Now, that itself, Sir, is a process of questionable wisdom. If the Conservator of Forests had been good enough to auction away these drift woods then and there, the poor population would have been benefited and the Government would not have been exposed to anything like loss. Now the payment of Rs. 2 per candy of timber to be collected at the Viyapuram Depot means an amount of expenditure on the part of the Government.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The statement is unjustified. It is not the timber collected by the department that has done the mischief but the trees uprooted by the torrents.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not want any explanation.

PRESIDENT: He should not be prevented from explaining his action.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have only to tell him that the timber that did the damage is not our timber.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai is talking about the contracts for collecting the drift wood.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a fact that Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai has made any arrangement with any person promising to pay Rs. 2 per candy of timber or any other material? It is upon the absence of any contradiction to that question that I am basing my argument.

Then there is the usual practice of putting off the sale of timber in the expectation of securing the highest price, till at last, at about the close of the year, in the anxiety to make good the anticipated income, the department is compelled to sell the stock to any purchaser, generally an outsider, accepting such terms as he offers. A repetition of that practice this year would be quite outrageous. To serve the teeming population of the State, the department should make an honest endeavour and should not withhold any assistance by considerations of making the largest profit. It is therefore that I am pointing out that, to the extent of the damage done to the houses by timber, the prices of timber should be moderated and reduced to such a level as to make them available to those who stand in need of them. Now, the collection charges and the charges of keeping all these logs will have to be taken into consideration. The Conservator would thus go on adding to the outlay; and regard would not be paid to the demands of the people except upon immoderate terms. On the other hand, I would suggest that such of the driftwood and timber that he finds here and there in various parts of the affected area may be sold away on the spot. If possible, I would even request him to open a new depot in any new centre so that the people who have suffered considerably on account of the flood may take advantage of the sale of timber. That is the way that our friend will have to approach the question and

[Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran.]

not in the right royal-redtapist way. It is for that purpose that I would invite his attention. These are the main questions that I propose in connection with the flood.

Sir, in connection with this particular budget, I see that a number of other problems have also been brought up for discussion. As I pointed out at the outset, I do not consider it quite a profitable job to embark on a detailed consideration or a critical examination of the various figures supplied to the House by my friend Mr. George; but all the same,—

PRESIDENT: May I draw your attention to the time? You have already exceeded your time, and there are other members who have to speak. Then the official members also must have a chance.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I do not want to take up any further time. I associate myself in a general way with the sentiments expressed by my friends on this side of the House with respect to the question of public service and also with respect to certain kindred questions which have been discussed by them. I am sorry I have no further time.

PRESIDENT: I would have allowed you to go on, but then the official members will have no chance whatever. So far as I can see, they have even now very little time for replying.

MR. L. R. RAJA RAJA VARMA KOIL TAMPURAN (*Edavagai*): Sir, while we thank the Government for their readiness in granting relief funds for the support of the distressed poor in the flooded areas and for the additional grants provided in the new budget, we wish that some kind of provision be also made for advancing small loans for the reconstruction of houses to the needy and homeless people of those areas. The actual labourer or coolie would have had very little to lose, for he practically lived a hand-to-mouth existence in the huts provided by his master. The few rich that have suffered may afford to reconstruct their homes without seeking Government help. But the middle-class man, the responsible agriculturist of the soil is the one that is most affected. He is entirely deprived of the fruits of his long-earned labour and now may be chucked back with refusals from door to door even when he wants a loan for the purpose of reconstruction. And imagine, Sir, the usurious interest the so-called banks of the State would charge at the present crisis. I do not think that the agricultural loans provided for would cover this item.

I do not agree with two of my previous speakers on their comment on the Co-operative Societies. It may be that movement in their province is very limited, but I cannot agree with them in the view that they may misuse the privilege if any is allowed to them. No doubt the percentage of the population making use of the Co-operative Societies or their members, if any, is really small. But I have known no instance when the need of any of their constituents is wantonly overlooked.

Under such circumstances, I believe that the Co-operative Societies, the real organ of the people—wherever there are such—alone would rise to the occasion. But how little can they do? How few there are of such? Still where their help can reach, I believe it is the duty of the Government to render help to their distressed constituents through them—by advancing long-term loans of low interest, repayable in instalments, as in the case of agricultural loans or for even shorter periods for about ten years.

In cases where the Co-operative Societies cannot be of any help, the Government has to devise means in advancing such house loans through some officers or other local bodies. In any case, the loans need not be of large sums; particular care ought to be bestowed that they reach the right man. The same point has to be emphasised in the case of agricultural loans also. From our past experience of such, we are obliged to remark that the loans hitherto forwarded have more often favoured the influential rich than the needy poor, and, in spite of all the precautions taken, instances are not wanting when the money advanced is not used for agricultural purposes entirely. The only efficient way to check and control the abuse of privilege, I believe, is to forward them through agricultural Co-operative Societies.

Here I may draw once again the attention of the Government to my interpellation last session for bringing together Kuttanad under a separate co-operative division. The Report on the Co-operative Department would go to prove that the taluks of Ambalapuzha, Changanachery and Tiruvalla are not in any way backward in subscribing to the co-operative movement. But I put the plain question—how many of the agricultural Co-operative Societies are registered to the real *punja* cultivators, or how many really contribute to their needs? Are not the societies of those taluks, most of them, registered by townsmen and up-country villagers for their use? Has not the Director himself felt the want of real co-operation when he recommended the great need for the establishment of Agricultural Boards? Is not the same sentiment echoed by the Industrial (Electrical) Engineer in his comment on water-pumping stations? Here absolute co-operation in agricultural operations is quite unavoidable and economic process cannot result without united action. I believe not only a Co-operative Inspector but also an able and qualified Agricultural Inspector should be put in charge of Kuttanad formed into a separate division. The Kuttanad *punja* lands are of a very peculiar type and in extent and resources, and in the yield of rice, the staple food of the Travancoreans, it can favourably compare with any other part of the State. The Director of Agriculture has always been able to give us great hopes, but with all his demonstration farms I wonder what little he has been really able to achieve. The Report of the Agricultural Department every year has to speak pages on the investigation of intensive methods of rice cultivation, selection of seeds, manurial requirements, etc., while one stops with astonishment and regret to read the two or three lines scribbled to fill up an otherwise empty column on *punja* cultivation. I cannot think, Sir, this is a factor to be so much ignored.

[Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran.]

We hear enough comments from the members on this side of the House on the real effects of *punja* demonstration farms. In our last Makaram session, Mr. Mammen Mappillai, the North Travancore Commerce member, on whose farm the demonstrations first began and still continue, vouchsafed before this House what little was economically gained on his farm by departmental work. And the Director himself would admit what little he was able to achieve by way of remedy to the cocoanut palm disease that has ravaged several parts of this area. When we remember that these are the two mainstays of the people over this vast area, one cannot congratulate the Government on the way in which this portion is neglected. To be plain enough, I have no belief in these demonstration experiments, for departmental operations cannot, as a rule, prove the economic and commercial value of the same. No doubt, the department must try experiments and carry on scientific investigations but they have to be confined to a true scientific research spirit. But the results of the investigations may be put to the economic test through private agencies—the ordinary cultivators—as far as possible, giving them advice, supervision and help and replenishing the loss, if any, sustained by them.

At least this year's report gives us one consolation that the soil analysis is completed. We fervently hope that hereafter at least something will be done outside the laboratory and in the open field.

Over and above the several points brought to the notice of this House by the previous speakers, I wish to mention two more. The first is on the Anchal Department. One would note with extreme regret that the Anchal Department, in spite of all the increased rates, is still working at a heavy loss. Though a gradual improvement is shown in the budget, it is neither sufficient nor satisfactory. Yet, we have to mend it and not to end it. We cannot recommend any increment in rates—rates that affect in a distressing manner even the pockets of coolies and paupers. The only way is to curtail the expenses as far as possible. But the details under the last three main heads—stationery, printing and stamp manufacturing charges—are somewhat clouded in mystery; at least without further elucidation we could not adequately discuss the question and suggest remedial measures.

In consideration of the general policy, I have to press a word more and that is to comment on the *Kandukrishi nelpuras*. It is really a great grievance for the cultivators of the soil to be taxed in kind. It must be expected that the Government would have realised the serious hardships of the people when they considered and once for all stopped the old system of levy of tax in kind in *proverthi cutcherries*. The Government do not in any way gain by imposing these exactions upon the cultivators; and by abolishing the same the Government would only be gainers in their actual income. I wish the fate of some of the *nelpuras* in the recent floods must bring to the notice of the Government the serious consideration of somehow removing this long-felt grievance.

Before concluding, Sir, I would like to echo the sentiments of my previous speakers on the urgency of the Kottarakara-Alwaye railway line. So much has been said of the neglect of means of communication in North Travancore. All the people of these taluks look to you, Sir, for the commencement of this work.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Kalkulam*): Sir, இப்போது தபார் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கும் பட்ஜெற்று அடுத்தவருஷத்திற்குள்ள வரவுசிலவுகளை காண்பிக்கிறது. அதில் 1100-ராமாண்டிக்குள்ளவரவு முன்வருஷத்திற்குள்ள வரவைப்பாற்கிலும் குறைந்து, சிலவு முன் வருஷத்திற்குள்ள சிலவைப்பார்க்கிலும் கூடியும் இருப்பதாக தெரிகிறது. இந்த வருஷத்தில் உண்டான ஜலப் பிளவத்தினால் நேரிட்ட நஷ்டங்களை கவனியாமலே தயார்செய்த பட்ஜெற்றுவினால் இதிலுள்ள வரவுசிலவுகளை உறுதியாகக் கைக்கொள்வதற்கு இடமில்லை. தற்காலத்தில் உண்டாயிருக்கும் கஷ்டநஷ்டங்கள் காரணமாக முதல் வரவு இன்னும் அதிகம் குறையவும், சிலவு இன்னும் அதிகம் கூடவும் செய்யுமென்பது திண்ணம். பெருமழையினால் திருவிதாங்கோடு முழுவதுமே பெரும்நஷ்டம் அடைந்திருப்பதுண்டு. Mr. ராமகிருஷ்ணபிள்ளை சொன்னதுபோல் வடதிருவிதாங்கோடு மட்டுமல்ல, தென்திருவிதாங்கோட்டில் உண்டாயிருக்கும் நஷ்டத்திற்கும் அளவில்லை. இத்தருணத்தில் ஜனங்களுடைய கஷ்டநிவர்த்திக்காக கவர்மெண்டார் செய்துவரும் உதவிகளுக்காகவும் இன்னும் பலவித உதவிகள் செய்து தரலாமென்று கூறியிருக்கிற வாக்குறுதிக்காகவும் நான் மிக நன்றி பாராட்டுகிறேன்.

மேல் வருஷத்தில் சிலவு கூடுதலாயிருப்பதை முன்னிட்டு கிருஷிக்காரர்மீது கூடுதல் வரி சுமத்தாமலிருக்கும்படி வேண்டிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

எதிர் பாராதபடி ஏற்படும் சிலவுகளுக்காக ஒரு சிறு துகை ரிஸர்வ் பண்டாக (Reserve fund) கவர்மெண்டார் ஒதுக்கவைக்கவேண்டியது மிக அவசியம். அப்படிச் செய்வதானால் அவசியமான வேலைகளை நிறுத்திவையாமலே கஷ்டநிவர்த்தி செய்துகொள்ளலாம். இப்போதே கிருஷிக்காரர்கள் மிகப் பளுவான தீர்வைகொடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். ஒரு சக்கரம் கரம் தீர்க்கவேண்டியவன் நாலு சக்கரம் டிமாண்டுபடியும் கொடுத்து கரம் தீர்க்கிறான். டிமாண்டுபடியில்தானே இந்த வருஷம் ஏராளமான முதல் வந்திருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதற்கு முக்கிய காரணம் பார்வத்திகாரர் ஊரூராய்ச்சென்று கரம் வசூல் செய்யக்கூடாதென்ற புதிய சட்டமேயாம். ஒரு பட்டாதாரனுக்கு அநேக நம்பர் வஸ்துக்கள் இருக்கக்கூடும். அவனுக்கு ஒவ்வொரு நம்பர் வஸ்துவுக்கும் தவணைதோறும் தனித்தனி டிமாண்டு நோட்டீஸ் அனுப்புகிறதாயிருந்தால் அவன் டிமாண்டுபடியாகவே எவ்வளவு பணம் செலுத்தவேண்டியது வரும் என்பது நான் சொல்லாமலே தெரியவரும்.

பார்வத்திகாரர் இன்னின்ன ஊரில் இத்தனையித்தனை நாள் கரம் பிரிவுக்காக தாமஸம் உண்டென்று ஊரார்களுக்கு அறிவுகொடுத்து அந்தப் படியே பணம் வசூல் செய்வதாயிருந்தால் மேற்கூறிய நஷ்டங்களுக்கு இடம் உண்டாயிராது.

[Mr. T. M. Chidambaranu Pillai.]

வருமான வரி, சுங்கவரி முதலியவைகளால் நாங்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் கொஞ்சமல்ல. இதற்கப்பால் புறம்போக்கு ஆக்கிரமத்திற்காக எங்களிடத்தில் ஈடாக்கிவரும் பிழையும் ஐந்தரெட்டிக்கரமும் மிக ஏழைகளாக்கி விடுகின்றன. இந்தப் புறம்போக்கு ஸம்மந்தமான நடபடிகளெல்லாம் ஆகேஷ்டிக்கத்தகுந்தவைகளேயாம். பக்கத்திலுள்ள பட்டாவஸ்துக்களின் அளவை திட்டப்படுத்தாமல் புறம்போக்கின் அளவைமட்டும் திட்டப்படுத்தி ஆக்கிரமகேஸ் உண்டுபண்ணுவதும் புறம்போக்கு பதித்தகொடுப்பதில் பக்கவஸ்துவிற்குள்ள கரத்தை கவனியாமல் மிகக்கூடுதல் கரம் ஏற்படுத்துவதும் சற்றும் நீதியான காரியங்களாக மாட்டா. தவிரவும் குடிகளைக்கொண்டு கல்லுநடுகிறதற்கு தெரியப்படுத்தாமல் அவர்களே கல்லுநட்டுக் கூடுதல் பணம் வாங்கி வருகிறதும் குடிகள் நட்ட கல்லு கவர்மெண்டிவிருந்து போட்ட கல்லென்று சொல்லி ரண்டு மூன்று வருஷம் கழிந்து பணம் ஈடாக்கி வருகிறதும் ஒரு வழக்கமாயிருக்கிறது.

மேல் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் ஸர்க்கீட்டு போகும்பொழுது இன்ன இன்ன ஸ்தலங்களில் இத்தனையித்தனை நாள் தாமஸமுண்டென்று புரேக்கிராம் போடவும் அந்தந்த ஸ்தலங்களிலுள்ள முக்கியஸ்தர்களை கண்டு நாட்டின் குணதோஷங்களை விசாரித்து அறியவும் வேண்டுவது மிக அவசியம். அல்லாவிட்டால் இப்போது வெளியீட்டிருக்கும் பிறஸ் நோட்டீஸ்

“Alarming telegrams were received on the 17th and 18th from two private individuals of Nanjanad, but the Revenue Commissioner found on inspection that the area damaged, even according to the estimate of the petitioners, should not exceed 900 acres though the Tahsildar estimated it at only 440 acres. The crops between Kalkulam and Nagercoil were found to be in good condition. The Cape road beyond Suchindram had been submerged for 2 to 3 furlongs length and there was a flow across the road dam beyond the Oluganasseri bridge. The road to Tiruppatisaram was breached and the brick wall on the tank side of the Tiruppatisaram Palace pushed out to a length of 70 feet. There were no breaches to irrigation tanks or channels.”

சொல்லியிருக்கிறது போல் ஜனங்கள் சொல்லுகிறது நம்பிக்கையில்லாமல் பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் சொல்லுகிறதை மட்டும் நம்பினால் குடிகள் மோசம் போகிறதற்கு இடம் வரும். பிறஸ் நோட்டீஸ் (Press Note) நாஞ்சினாட்டில் பெரும்பழையினால் உண்டான நஷ்டத்தை ரெவனியூ கம்மிஷனர் (Revenue Commissioner) போய்ப் பார்த்ததில் 900 ஏக்கர்க்கு கூடாமலும் தகசீல்தார் போய் பார்த்ததில் 450 ஏக்கருக்கு கூடாமலும் நஷ்டப்பட்டிருக்கிருக்கிறதாக தெரிகிறது. தவிரவும் ஆற்றுங்கரையோ குளத்தின்கரையோ உடையவில்லை என்றும், திருப்பதிஸாரம் ரோட்டில்தான் ஒரு உடைப்பு உண்டு என்றும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறது. திருப்பதிஸாரம் ரோட்டில் உடைப்பு இல்லை, பழையாற்றுங்கரையில் தான் உடைத்திருக்கிறது. அதை சீப் இஞ்சினீரும் (Chief Engineer) வந்து பார்த்திருக்கிறார். ஆதலால் இந்தப் பிறஸ் நோட்டீஸ் எப்படி நம்

பலாம்? கல்குளம் முதல் நாகர்கோவில் வரை கிருஷிகள் நல்ல ஸ்திதியிலிருக்கிறதாக கம்மிஷனர் சொல்லுகிறார். அதாவது மேயின் ரோட்டுக்குப் பக்கத்தில் உள்ள நிலங்களைப் பார்த்திருக்கக்கூடும். அல்லாமல் கிருஷிக்காரரை வருத்தி கஷ்டப்பட்ட இடங்களை பார்க்கவில்லை என்று தெரிகிறது.

இனி வனம் டிப்பார்ட்டுமெண்டு (Forest) விஷயமாக இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை சொல்லிக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த டிப்பார்ட்டுமெண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் முதலெடுப்பு அதிகமாக காண்பிக்கும் பொருட்டு கிருஷிக்காரர்களுக்கு இடைஞ்சலான காரியங்கள் அனேகம் செய்து வருகிறார்கள்.

கிருஷிக்காரர்களுக்கு உபயோகமான குழை, விறகு, ஆடு, பிறநாட்டு ஆடு, மாடு இவைகளுக்கு தீர்வை சுமத்தியிருக்கிறது மிகவும் கஷ்டமரண காரியம். கிருஷி செய்து வரும் நிலவரம்புவரையிலுப் பரிசுர் வாக்கி (Reserve) விடுவதினால் காட்டு மிருகங்கள் பயிருக்குப் பலவிதமான துன்பங்களை உண்டாக்கி விடுகின்றன. இதல்லாமலும் விருகூங்கள் ஒன்றுமே பல்லாத வெறும் கல்கறடான பூமிகளையும் ரிஸர்வோடு சேர்த்து விடுகிறார்கள். இதனாலும் கிருஷிக்காரர்களுக்கு சங்கடம் ஏற்படுகிறது.

இப்பொழுது ஜலப்பிரயத்தால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற கஷ்டநஷ்டங்களை நிவர்த்திசெய்வதற்காக அனுவதிக்கப்படும் பணத்தை அந்த அந்த தாலுகாவிலுள்ள பிரதானிகளை கலந்து சிலவு செய்ய வேண்டியது மிக அவசியம்.

கவர்மெண்டுக்கு வரவு கூட்டவேண்டிய காரியத்தையும் சிலவு குறைக்கவேண்டிய காரியத்தையும் பற்றி முன் எனது சிநேகிதர் Mr. T. Kumara Pillai குண்டிக் காண்பித்து சொல்லியிருப்பதினால் நான் கூடுதல் நேரம் எடுக்கவில்லை.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (Nominated) : Sir, I am not ready to speak anything about the budget, because the floods did not permit me to come here in time. I reached here only to-day at 12 o'clock and I got the budget papers only afterwards. So I had no time to go through the budget. I think that my present duty is to say a few words about the distress, damage, loss and calamity caused by the recent floods. I hope that the Government and all the members on both sides of this House including you, Sir, have fully understood the sad situation and I do not feel ashamed to admit that I am too poor in English to express the situation satisfactorily before this House. I find no adequate words to express the loss sustained by the people of Muvattupuzha, Kunnatnad, including Alwaye, and Parur taluks. I myself have sustained a loss of more than Rs. 7,000 by the flood and I do not hide the fact that my loss, when compared with the losses sustained by others, will not come to one cash per rupee. I hope that the Government will not think that I am exaggerating the figures when I say that, on an average, not less than 25 per cent. of the houses, 20 per cent. of the cattle and 75 per cent. of the crops has been destroyed by the flood, besides a large portion of the household materials including cots, almirahs, cooking vessels, clothes, rice, etc. People have no seeds or good cattle for the

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

coming Makaram and Medam crops. In short, I can boldly say that, if Government do not find measures to help the people, I have no hesitation in saying that the future of the country will be very deplorable.

Now the Government alone can help us from this critical situation. I assure the Government that the general public will, with heart and soul, co-operate with them to the best of their ability, to make their efforts a success. If the people are happy, no doubt, the Government will be more happy. If the people become poor, I am sure that the Government in course of time will become poorer. I do not suggest anything regarding the measures to be taken by the Government for relieving distress. I leave it to the Government to find the best means to help the people and save them from the present situation. The loss sustained by the people of the northern taluks, I can estimate, is not by lakhs of rupees but only by crores; and I do not know how many good years must follow to regain the normal condition. If the Government have no money at their disposal to meet this unexpected heavy expenditure, let the Government borrow on our behalf and we shall be very glad to pay additional taxes to clear the debt when good days come. I therefore request you, Sir, to make early arrangements to redress the sad situation.

MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): സർ, ഭയങ്കരമായ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം നിമിത്തം കഷ്ടതകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർക്കും അവരെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിനായി ഭവ്യനഷ്ടം കായക്രേശം മുതലായവ സഹിച്ച് അക്ഷീണം പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്ന ഭിന്നഭയാലുക്കൾക്കും വേണ്ടി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു യഥാകാലം ചെയ്ത എല്ലാ സഹായങ്ങൾക്കും നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Louder please.

MR. C. RAMANKUNJU (*Nominated*): ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വെള്ളപ്പൊക്കം കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ശരീരം ഒഴിച്ചുള്ള എല്ലാസാധനങ്ങളും കടലിൽ കൊണ്ടു തള്ളിയിട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാകുന്നു. കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ തന്റെ ഉപകരണങ്ങളോ, ഉരുക്കളോ, വിത്തോ, വേലക്കൂലികൊടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ധാന്യമോ ഒന്നും കൂടാതെയും എന്തുചെയ്യണമെന്നു അറിയാതെയും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഒരു ഘട്ടമാണിത്. തന്റെകൃഷിജോലി ചെയ്യേണ്ടവരും, വീടില്ലാതെയും, ആഹാരസാധനമില്ലാതെയും വല്ലവരും അല്പധാന്യം ധർമ്മമായി കൊടുത്താൽ വേവിക്കുന്നതിന് പാത്രംപോലുമില്ലാതെയും വലയുന്നവരും ആയുധാവപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ സഹായാഭാവങ്ങൾ കേട്ടു യാതൊന്നും ചെയ്യാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതിനാലുള്ള ധർമ്മസങ്കടം അനുഭവിക്കുന്ന ഒരു നരമാണിത്.

ഒഴുക്കും വെള്ളവും നിമിത്തം കൃഷി ചെയ്തിരുന്ന വസ്തുക്കൾ എല്ലാം നശിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ പ്രധാനവ്യവസായസാധനമായ കയറുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു

വേണ്ട അഴുക്കിലിട്ട തൊണ്ട മുഴുവൻ കടലിനു ആഹാരമായി. വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനില്ക്കുന്നിടത്തും തെങ്ങിലെ വിളവിനും സാരമായ കേടുതട്ടുന്നതാകുന്നു.

ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അടുത്ത കൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ വ്യവസായവാണിജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ഉള്ള ആദായം വളരെ തൃപ്തമായിരിക്കാനേ ഇടയുള്ളൂ. ഗവർണ്മെന്റിന് എല്ലാവകുപ്പുകളിലും ഉള്ള വരവിൽ അനല്പമായ കുറവു സംഭവിക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതിനു രണ്ടു പക്ഷമില്ല.

ഈ അപ്കടസ്ഥിതിയിൽ നിന്നും രക്ഷപ്രാപിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള എല്ലാ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലും ഉടൻ പ്രവേശിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിച്ച് ഒന്നാമതായി ആഹാരസാധനത്തെയും രണ്ടാമതു തൊഴിലുകൾക്കു വേണ്ട പരുക്കൻ വസ്തുക്കളേയും എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തരിച്ചല്ലെങ്കിൽ ക്ഷാമവും പട്ടിണിനിമിത്തമുള്ള ജനനാശവും തന്നിമിത്തമുണ്ടായേക്കാവുന്ന സമാധാനമില്ലായ്മയും ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ വളരെ നാൾ പീഡിപ്പിക്കാൻ സംഗതിയാകുന്നതാകുന്നു.

നേൽകൃഷിക്കു പ്രസിദ്ധിയുള്ള കട്ടനാടൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ അടുത്ത കൃഷിയെ വളരെ ഫലപ്രദമാക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ വേണ്ട എക്കൽ വന്നു ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും കൃഷിയെ യുവന്ന എല്ലാ നിമിത്തങ്ങളിലും തക്കസമയത്തു കൃഷി ഇറക്കുകയും അനുധാരണ സംഭവങ്ങൾ നിമിത്തം കേടുപറ്റാതെയും ഇരിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ വലിയൊരു ക്ഷമത്തിനു ഇടവരാതെ കഴിക്കാവുന്നതാണെന്നുമാണറിയുന്നത്. വെള്ളത്തിൽ മുങ്ങിയ മറ്റു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും അടുത്ത നേൽകൃഷി കൂടുതൽ ഫലപ്രദമായി തീരുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുണറിയുന്നത്.

നെല്ലുപോലെതന്നെ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമുള്ള മരച്ചീനി കൃഷിയും തക്കസമയത്തു നടപ്പിലാക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇവയെല്ലാം വേണ്ടി ഇപ്പോൾത്തന്നെ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരു സംഖ്യ നീക്കിവെയ്ക്കയും കൂടുതൽ വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന സംഖ്യ ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് സന്നദ്ധരായിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് ചാരിതാത്പര്യജനകമാകുന്നു.

എന്നാൽ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അനുവദിക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യ തക്കസമയത്തുകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു കിട്ടുന്നതിനുകൂടി വേണ്ടതു കരുതി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചില്ലെങ്കിൽ ധനംകൊണ്ടുസഹായം ചെയ്തതായി ഗവർണ്മെന്റിനു വിചാരിക്കാമെന്നല്ലാതെ സാരമായ പ്രയോജനങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ വായ്പസംഖ്യ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിനും അലോട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുമുൻപായി അതതു താലൂക്കിലുള്ള ഓരോപകൃതിയിലും വായ്പ ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഓരോ കൃഷിക്കാരന്റെയും

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

സ്വത്തു വിവരവും ഓരോതരം കൃഷിക്കുമുള്ള സുഖത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീണ്ണവും അതിൽ കൃഷി ഇറക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന ചിലവും വായ്പയായി വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന സംഖ്യയും കാണിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്റ്റേയിററുമെൻറ് അടുത്ത ചിങ്ങം ൩൦ -ാം തീയതിക്കു മുൻപായി പാവ്തു കർമ്മവാന്തിരം തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നതിനും നെൽകൃഷിക്കാർക്കു നെൽകൃഷിക്കാരുടെയും ചീനി കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു അവരുടെയും മറ്റു ഓരോതരം കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു അവരുടേയും സമ്പ്രദർശനധനസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ച് അടുത്തകൃഷിക്കു പറ്റാത്തപ്പോൾ വേണ്ട പണം വായ്പകൊടുക്കുന്നതിലേക്ക് അതാതുതാലൂക്കിലെ റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘം രജിസ്ട്രാരുമായി ആലോചിച്ചു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉത്തരവുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഉടനെ പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഉത്സാഹമായി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചാൽ ആ രണ്ടുമാസങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ വേണ്ട സംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു വായ്പകൊടുക്കാൻ കഴിയുന്നതാകുന്നു. ഈവിധം കൊടുക്കുന്ന വായ്പകൾ കൃഷി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഏറ്റവും എളുപ്പത്തിൽ തിരിയ്ക്കേണ്ടുന്നതിനും അടുത്ത ഒരു രണ്ടു കൃഷികൾക്കുകൂടി വീണ്ടും ആവശ്യാനുസരണം കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും ഈ കൊല്ലംവരെ മരച്ചീനിയും നെല്പും കൃഷി ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന നിലങ്ങൾ കൃഷി ചെയ്യാതെ തരിശായിട്ടു വരികയില്ലെന്നും ഒരു കൂടുതൽ കരംകൂടി വസൂൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും വ്യവസ്ഥകൾ ഉണ്ടായാൽ മാത്രമേ ഭാവിയിലുണ്ടാകാവുന്ന ക്ഷാമത്തിൽനിന്നും നമുക്ക് അല്പം ഏകിലും ഒഴിഞ്ഞുനില്ക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാകയുള്ളൂ. കൃഷിക്കാർക്കു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിച്ചു വായ്പകൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു പരസ്പരസഹായസംഘങ്ങളുടെ എണ്ണമൊപ്രയോജനമോ വർദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നുമാത്രം ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചല്ല; എന്നാൽ ജലപ്രളയംനിമിത്തം സംകടത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടു വലയുന്ന ജനതതി റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ നിയമപരിപാലനച്ചടങ്ങുകളിൽകൂടി കടന്നുപോകുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ ശേഷിമാന്മാരെല്ലാവരെയും ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണ്.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൽ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോയ ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങൾക്കു പകരം നെല്ല് അരി മുതലായതിനു നാം ഇപ്പോഴുത്തേതിലും കൂടുതലായി ഒരു വർഷത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും പരദേശത്തെ ആശ്രയിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. കച്ചവടസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾ നല്ലപോലെ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കച്ചവടക്കാർ ലാഭം കൂടുതൽ കിട്ടുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി എപ്പോഴും അവരുടെ ഇറക്കുമതിയെ ക്രമീകരിക്കുന്നതിനു ശ്രമിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കും. അതും ക്ഷാമത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും. ഇതിനെ പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതിനും Harrisons and Crossfield പോലെയുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലും കമ്പനികളുമായി

നെല്ലരി പരുത്തി കുമ്മായവിലയ്ക്കു വിലക്കുന്നതിന് ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യുകയും അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ടിവരുന്ന മൂലധനം അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കമ്പനിക്കാരെ ഏല്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇതിനെല്ലാം വേണ്ടിവരുന്നമുതൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റിനു വിഷമമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കടപ്പത്രം മുഖാന്തരമൊ നമ്മുടെരാജ്യത്തിൽ അനേകകാലമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഇമ്പീരിയൽബാങ്കിനോടൊ കടംവാങ്ങിയൊ കടം കൊടുത്തു സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

ഇനി എന്തിന്നു പറയാനുള്ളത് ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുനേരത്തേയമ്കക്കുണ്ടാകട്ടെ കടിച്ചും കുടിക്കാതെയും സർക്കാർ കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലും, പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലും, പബ്ലിക് നിരത്തുകളിലും മറ്റും കഴിഞ്ഞുകൂടിപ്പോരുന്ന അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗക്കാരെയും മറ്റു കൂലിപ്പണിക്കാരെയുംപറ്റിയാകുന്നു.

ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർക്കു താമസിക്കുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യവും ജോലിയും എത്രയും വേഗത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടത് ആവശ്യമാകുന്നു. താമസസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു Protector of the Depressed Classes മുഖേന വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ഗവർണ്മെന്റടനെ ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ജോലിയുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുക എന്നത അധഃകൃതരുടെ യജമാനന്മാരായ കൃഷിക്കാർക്ക് അടുത്തകൃഷിക്കുള്ള പ്രാരംഭവേലകൾ തക്കസമയത്ത് ആരംഭിക്കുന്നതിനു സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുകയും ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഇൻജിനീയർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനു അനുവദിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വേലകൾ മുഴുവനും ആണ്ടാരംഭം മുതൽ ഉജ്ജ്വലമായി നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഏർപ്പാട് ചെയ്യുകയും ആകുന്നു.

തലസ്ഥാനനഗരത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ സംരക്ഷണവേലകൾക്കായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റി അവരുടെ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങളെ ശരിയായി നിവർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് അവരെ വേണ്ടവിധം സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന് ഓരോഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലെയും എല്ലാഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും ഉള്ള ചുമതലയെ ഗവർണ്മെന്റ് അവരെ ധരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

അടുത്തകൊല്ലത്തെ ചിലവു് ഏതുപ്രകാരത്തിലും വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതിനെ അധികരിച്ചിരിക്കാനേ തരമുള്ളൂ എന്നും എന്നാൽ അത് എത്രമാത്രമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ തരമില്ലാതെ യുമാണിരിക്കുന്നത്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ യുദ്ധകാലത്തു നമ്മുടെ കോശസ്ഥിതിമോശമായിരുന്നിട്ടും ക്ഷാമബത്തയും, ശമ്പളക്കുറുപ്പും ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കൊടു

[Mr. C. Ramankunju.]

തുസഹായിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വളരെ ഔദാര്യമായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറും ജനങ്ങളും വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുള്ള ചുമതലയെ അവർ വിസ്മരിക്കുകയല്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കാം. ഇവിടത്തെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു കിട്ടിവരുന്ന ശമ്പളത്തിൽ നിന്നും അവരുടെ സഹജമായ ആഡംബരച്ചിലവുകൾക്ക് ഒരു വലിയ ഭാഗം മിച്ചം വരുത്തുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു ഈ ിടെ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുമേലുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ കോടതിമുമ്പാകെ കൊടുത്തമൊഴിയിൽ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകാണുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ വരവിനു കുറവു സംഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ചിലവിനും കുറവുവരുത്തേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമാകുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള കുറവ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളമൊഴിച്ചുള്ള ഏതിനത്തിലും വരുത്തുന്നത് ഇ പ്ലാഴ്ത്ത സ്ഥിതിക്കു പറ്റിയതായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറും ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും തമ്മിൽ ആലോചിച്ചു തുറുപാമുതൽ ൨ ൦ ൦ രൂപാവരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും ൧ ൦ ൦ രൂപായും, ൨ ൦ ൦ രൂപായുമേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള എല്ലാ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും അവരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൽ പകുതിയും ൧ ൧ ൦ ൦ മാണ്ടിൽ പറ്റി ബാക്കി സംഖ്യ ക്ഷാമനിവാരണാർത്ഥം ഒഴിയുന്നതായാൽ നമ്മുടെ ചിലവിൽ ഗണ്യമായ ഒരുതുക കുറവുവരുന്നതും ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ കൃതജ്ഞതയും കൂടുതൽ സ്നേഹവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതുമാകുന്നു.

ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള മറ്റൊല്ലാ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങളിലും മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപള്ള മുതലായ മെമ്പറന്മാരോടു ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

അധികൃതവർഗ്ഗക്കാരെ നന്നാക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ നയം ഗ്ലോബലിയായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിലും, ഫീസു സേജന്റും, സ്റ്റെപ്പൻഡ് മുതലായ സംഗതികൾക്കും, കുടിപ്പാറ്റിനു സ്ഥലം വാങ്ങിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനും വേണ്ടി ഗണ്യമായ സംഖ്യകൾ നീക്കിവച്ചുകാണുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ആ സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള നന്ദിയെ പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

സമുദ്രതീരവാസികളായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ജലസേചനവും നിമിത്തമുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാക്കേണ്ട കാലം അതിക്രമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറു വാഗ്ദത്തം ചെയ്ത പ്രകാരം ഏതാനും കിണറുകൾ ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ തീർക്കുകയും വ്യവസായഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും വരുത്തുന്ന Boring Drill വരുവേണാലുടനെ കായംകുളം കായലിന്റെ കരയിലുള്ള തറക്കടവുതറയിൽ ശുദ്ധജലം എടുക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പരിശോധനവേല ആരംഭിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

മത്സ്യവ്യവസായം രാജ്യത്തിലെ പൊതുമുതലിനെ വലിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ പ്രാധാന്യമേറിയ ഒരു വ്യവസായമാകുന്നു. ആ വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധി അതിലേപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തെ കൂട്ടിച്ചൊരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികൾ സാമാന്യേന ദരിദ്രന്മാരും അവരുടെ ആദായം ഇപ്പോൾ അനിശ്ചിതവുമാകുന്നു; ഈ വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കു ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികളുടെയിടയിൽ ഫീഷറീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും നടത്തിവരുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള സ്കൂളുകൾ കൂടുതലായി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാകുന്നു.

മത്സ്യവ്യവസായികളുടെ പ്രധാനവ്യവസായധനമായ ചെമ്മീനിനു ശരിയായ മാർക്കറ്റില്ലാത്തതുനിമിത്തം കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു കൊല്ലങ്ങളായി ക്രമത്തിലധികം നഷ്ടം നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ ചരക്കിന് ഇപ്പോൾ റെംഗ്രൺ ഒരു മാർക്കറ്റുമാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. പുതിയ മാർക്കറ്റുകൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാതെ ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു വ്യത്യസ്തം വരുന്നതല്ല. അതിനാൽ ബീമാ, ചൈന, ജപ്പാൻ മുതലായ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നയ്ക്കരിച്ച ചെമ്മീനും നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തുണ്ടാകുന്ന മറ്റു മത്സ്യങ്ങളും ചിലവാകുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ അന്വേഷിച്ചറിയുന്നതിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വ്യവസായങ്ങളും കൃഷികളും വലിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുപ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്ന രണ്ടു പദ്ധതികൾ-അതായതു സാങ്കേതികവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ കോഡും Land Colonisation Scheme-ഉം ഇവരണ്ടും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കാൻ തുടങ്ങിട്ടു കാലം കുറെ കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അവയെ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതിന് ഈ അവസരത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് വിനിയോഗിക്കുമെന്നും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

PRESIDENT: We have only less than an hour before us. The Financial Secretary would at least need half an hour for his reply. I am afraid I am unable to give all the official members time to reply to the criticisms made by the various non-officials in their speeches. The officials must take only such chances as they may find in the course of the budget motions to answer as far as possible the criticisms which have been made in the course of the discussion by the non-official members. But, I think, in fairness to the Chief Engineer, Mr. Natesa Aiyar, against whom some personal attacks have been made in the course of the discussion, I should give him an opportunity to explain briefly his position. After he has explained his position, I will call upon the Financial Secretary to make his reply.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered—

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I rise to a point of order? Rules 47 (2) and 48 (2), read together, show that, after the discussion of the budget, the Financial Secretary alone is to reply. That is, after the whole discussion is over, there is no provision in the rules for any official member to reply except the Financial Secretary.

PRESIDENT: Rule 48 (1) says that the *Council* shall be at liberty to discuss the budget. It does not exclude official members. Discussion therefore means discussion by official members also. The rule only prescribes the order in which the Financial Secretary is to reply; that is to say, his reply should come last.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): If that interpretation is accepted, I submit that the non-officials are at a disadvantage.

PRESIDENT: On the contrary, they are at a distinct advantage. All the non-officials have been able to speak, whereas the officials are not able to reply to the criticisms—some of which are very severe. One would like to have a full explanation from the official members. The non-official side has exhausted its criticisms.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): It would have been better if the officials—

PRESIDENT: Well, that is my ruling.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the criticisms and suggestions which some of the members have offered on the working of the P. W. D. mainly relate to the desirability of reducing the allotments for buildings, new and incomplete, and the necessity for increasing the allotments for communications, for protective irrigation and for the restoration of communications, etc., damaged by the recent unprecedentedly heavy rains and floods in the low country. A few of the members have also stated that the establishment continues to be excessive or at any rate does not stand in any need of additional staff to cope with the heavy and urgent works necessitated by rain and flood damages.

The damages to communications and flood-banks caused by the rains and floods we have had in the third week of July have been immense. The damaged flood-banks of the Pazhayar are being restored rapidly. The damaged flood-banks of the Kallada have been arranged to be restored and strengthened as soon as the floods in the river would permit. It is also under consideration to cut a new outlet for the floodwaters of the Chittumala lake and valley so that they may not overflow into the fields of East Kallada and damage them by submergence.

Through communications wherever interrupted are being rapidly restored. The damages on the Main Central Road have been repaired as soon as the floods subsided and through traffic has been rendered possible from the 31st July, 1924, from Kottarakara to Kottayam and beyond.

The heavy slips which fell on the 50th to the 53rd miles of the Quilon-Shencottah road on both sides of the Ariyankavu pass are being

rapidly removed and the road is being reconstructed where it was washed down at the 6th furlong of the 52nd mile. Through communications will be restored here in another two weeks.

The heavy slips which fell on the Kottayam-Kumili road in the Ghat section from Mundakkayam to Kumili have all been rapidly removed with the co-operation of the planting estates. There was a subsidence at the 42nd mile where a cart track along one side and a temporary bridge are being provided and expected to be ready in about a week. A portion of the 45th mile with two bridges and one culvert got buried under mountain slides from both sides of the valley and here a new road is being aligned and traced. It is expected that it will take about two months to restore cart traffic in this place. There have been indescribable damages to roads and bridges on all the routes leading to Munnar in the High Ranges. Rapid restoration has been arranged for and it is reported that a sum of not less than two lakhs of rupees would be needed for the purpose.

As regards the inadequacy of the allotment of one lakh of rupees for the work of restoration of damaged communications, etc., in the low country, I may say that the amount provided is only tentative, as full and detailed reports have not been received as yet. If more is needed the department will not be slow to apply to the Government for additional funds.

Some of the members seem to be still under the impression that the establishment in the department is excessive and can either be retrenched or expected to spend more without sacrificing efficiency. I have explained the real position in my speech in the last budget session (*vide* pages 166 to 172 of Vol. III, No. 3) and in the departmental Administration Report for 1098 which has been printed and made available to the members.

The department as now reorganised is expected to cope only with a normal grant of Rs. 27 to 28 lakhs, of which the establishment charge is only about Rs. 4½ lakhs, i. e. only about 17 per cent., against the 20 per cent. limit allowed in the G. O. No. P. W. 6640 A, dated the 20th October, 1910. Though intensive work is possible occasionally, it is not possible to expect the department to spend more without additional staff, temporary or permanent. During the years 1096 and 1097, when the outlay was a little more than Rs. 32 lakhs, prior to the reorganisation and retrenchment effected in the staff, the outlay in each executive Division, Sub-division and Section was on an average about Rs. 5.3 lakhs, Rs. 1.9 lakhs, and Rs. .55 lakh respectively per annum. After the reorganisation, the outlay has not been less comparatively. It was about Rs. 5.34 lakhs, Rs. 1.9 lakhs, and Rs. .57 lakh respectively in 1098. In 1099 it is expected to be Rs. 5.6 lakhs, Rs. 2.0 lakhs and Rs. .6 lakh, respectively; and in 1100 as budgeted for normal works, it stands at about the same figures.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai compared the outlays in 1096 and 1097 with the grant for 1100. I have analysed the figures and found that the average outlay in 1096 and 1097 has been Rs. 32.23 lakhs. The grant for

[Mr. Joseph Panjikarn.]

1100 is Rs. 29.15 lakhs including the Delhi Palace and the Railway, but excluding the special grant of Rs. 3 lakhs provided for restoration of damaged communications, etc. Analysing the works by service heads, the grant for buildings has been reduced from Rs. 5.7 lakhs to Rs. 3.2 lakhs or by Rs. 2.5 lakhs; that for reproductive Kodayar Project Works from Rs. 1.20 lakhs to Rs. .48 lakh, or by Rs. .72 lakh; and that for tools and plant from Rs. 1.03 lakhs to Rs. .65 lakh or by Rs. .38 lakh, making a total reduction of about Rs. 3.60 lakhs on the above heads alone. There is not much cause for regret in the above reductions. The grant for communications for 1100 is about Rs. 7 lakhs against the average outlay of Rs. 7.5 lakhs in 1096 and 1097; and that for protective irrigation has been increased to Rs. 1.02 lakhs from the average outlay of Rs. .15 lakh in 1096 and 1097. Out of this total grant of about Rs. 7 lakhs for communications (new and incomplete works) more than 50 per cent. is allotted for the Kottayam and the Alwaye Public Works Divisions which may be said to serve the needs of North Travancore. Regarding the needs of the Shertallai taluk, a new Section was created there during the year and the works in and about Shertallai were transferred to the jurisdiction and control of Mr. John Kurien, Executive Engineer at Kottayam. He has reported that he is doing—

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know the reason why the Kattachira bridge was not constructed this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kurien has reported that he is doing all that is possible in the matter of improving communications in and about Shertallai. He hopes to complete the bridge at Kattachira and the work on the Tannirmukkam road before February next and the work of regravelling the town roads early in 1100.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Panjikaran wants to know why the bridge was not constructed this year.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): All that is possible has been done this year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): For how many years has the bridge been under construction?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work was started in the latter part of 1097 or early in 1098.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Was there not a specific assurance last year that the work would be completed this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): There was no such assurance on my part. The work will be completed as early as possible.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): When was the work of the bridge commenced this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The work was being continued this year and was proceeding during the whole of the dry weather.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What was the progress this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): An expenditure of Rs. 4,375 has been incurred on the work to the end of Edavam in the current year.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what the total estimate for the construction of the bridge is?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I do not remember the figures separately, as the road and bridge are combined in one estimate.

PRESIDENT: - You are exceeding your time-limit.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have only just begun and I must be allowed to have my full say. (*Laughter*)

Cutting a new canal along the line of the Puttantodu, from Vembanad lake to the interior south of Tannirmukkam, was began and work to the extent of Rs. 5,000 was done during the last dry weather. The work on the Shertallai-Arattunkal road has been started and material collection is in progress.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): How much money has been spent on the Arattunkal road and how many miles have been constructed?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Mr. Kurien has reported that the work on this sandy path can make only slow progress owing to the difficulty of transport.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I want a ruling from the Chair. If I am not out of order, I must have an answer. The Chief Engineer has not answered my question. I want an answer to the question how much money has been spent on the Arattunkal road.

PRESIDENT: You should not expect him to know the money value of each item of work done by the department.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The budget allotment for communications in the Shertallai taluk for the year 1100 is Rs. 54,500 which is the largest grant allotted to any taluk. No other taluk except Tiruvalla approaches it.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether any amount allotted for the works in the Shertallai taluk has been surrendered?

PRESIDENT: It will not be known now as the year has not yet ended.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know —

PRESIDENT: Mr. Panjikaran is in possession of the House. He is putting a question.

[Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.]

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know how much is expected to be spent this year?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): In Shertallai?

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Yes.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is given in the printed budget. We cannot rely on that because it is only the probable expenditure. For gravelling the town roads, the probable expenditure is Rs. 3,500; for the Shertallai-Tannirmukkam road it is Rs. 5,000; and for the Alleppey-Shertallai canal it is Rs. 33,400 and for the Puttantodu it is about Rs. 5,500 etc.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): That is not my question. My question is, how much money is expected to be spent for Shertallai?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is the probable expenditure in 1099 reported by the Executive Engineer and provided in the revised estimate printed in the budget for 1100.

I need only add that Mr. Kurien who is one of the best officers in the department can be trusted to do whatever is needed and possible in that taluk. He has recommended the starting of relief works near Alleppey, Kottayam and Shertallai and these have been approved.

With regard to the remarks made by Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, regarding the misconduct of some subordinates of the department, I might say that the report of the Chief Engineer against the then Sub-division Officer and Section Officer, who were responsible for over-measurement and overpayment of the excise building works done at Arukutty, was sent up to Government about a year ago. The misconduct of the Cantonment Section Officer referred to by the member has not been reported to the Chief Engineer. An enquiry has now been made and it is reported that there was some delay on his part in realising the proceeds of the auction sales of surveyed materials and in remitting the same to the treasury. The Section Officer has already been transferred to far away Todupuzha for other reasons and the matter now reported will be properly dealt with.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether Supervisor Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar, who was in charge of the excise building works at Arukutty, is still in service?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I have already said that a report has been made to the Government against the then Sub-division Officer and the Section Officer.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Any action taken?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The matter was reported to the Government a year ago and is pending with them.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wish to know whether Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar is still kept in service?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): He is now on leave.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did Mr. Natesa Aiyar recommend the suspension of Mr. Rajagopala Aiyar from service for misappropriation of Government money?

PRESIDENT: You are assuming that the Supervisor misappropriated funds when you put the further question whether Mr. Natesa Aiyar has recommended his suspension.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there not a charge against him?

PRESIDENT: There is already the answer that the matter was reported to the Government a year ago.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What is the nature of the report?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): It is a voluminous file containing over two hundred pages. I cannot say now. It is one year since the report was made. I believe it was a subject of interpellation and the Government member in charge will be able to say at what stage the matter is.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it usual to keep an officer in service when it is found that there is a charge of corruption against him?

PRESIDENT: There again you assume that he is corrupt. That has first to be made out.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Mr. Natesa Aiyar was speaking about two hundred pages of explanation, report, etc. Is it the explanation of the officer or the recommendation made by the Chief Engineer to Government that is 200 pages long?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): All the papers put together.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are we to assume that he is unable to remember what exactly the recommendation is?

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I referred to the report. I have already stated that the question is one of over-measurement and overpayment and the matter is pending with the Government and it is one year since the report was made.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Has the matter been pending with the Government for the last one year?

PRESIDENT: Yes. He has already said that it has been pending with the Government. The Chief Engineer is not obviously responsible.

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): The alleged over-measurement in the Neyyattinkara Section has been dealt with by the Executive Engineer himself. It is reported that the contractor was at fault in the matter and proper penalty has been inflicted.

Some members have suggested the reduction of allotments for new and incomplete works under buildings. It is not a good policy to linger on with the construction of the buildings already taken up and in progress. Only a sum of Rs. 2,11,270 has been allotted for them. They refer mainly to the several Government departments and more than a half relate to Educational and Medical buildings. Only a provision of Rs. 82,350 has been made for new buildings which cannot be said to be much.

Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai has referred to the necessity for constructing a few roads in the Ambalapuzha taluk. The improvement of the road from Ambalapuzha to Takazhi has been provided for in the budget for 1100 and a sum of Rs. 3,000 has been allotted (*vide* item 84 of the detailed P. W. D. Budget Estimates under new works). As regards the extension of that road from Takazhi to Tiruvalla, two sections are already under maintenance. For the section from Chattankari to Nirattupuram, a representation has been received from a local association praying for the acquisition of land by Government and stating that the people would form the road embankment. Mr. Kurien has recommended after consulting the association that he would prefer the people to give the lands free, the department constructing the road. The matter is under consideration.

Regarding the raising of the low embankments on the Tiruvalla-Kottayam road referred to by the same member, some work has been done in the current year and provisions have been made in the budget for 1100 for raising the Idinjillam embankment and the Kodimata embankment (*vide* Incomplete Works item 135, Rs. 2,000, and item 139, Rs. 5,000).

PRESIDENT: Something was said by some of the members about the conduct of the Police at Vaikam. I think Mr. Krishna Pillai may have something to say in regard to it.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Sir, Mr. Madhava Variar and others have referred, in their speeches, to the conduct of the Police at Vaikam. They have not specified the particular conduct they take exception to. I presume they refer to the various allegations made in newspapers against the Police at Vaikam in general and against me in particular. I may therefore be permitted to avail myself of this opportunity to explain the circumstances that led up to these allegations.

The complaint against the Police is that, after my taking charge, there has been a change of policy in the attitude of the Police towards the *Satyagrahis*, and that, in consequence they not only brutally

assaulted the volunteers, but also set up the *Savarna* Hindus to assault them. The following facts will show that these charges are unfounded and that if any *Savarna* has assaulted them, it is an individual attack and is the result of the insults offered to him by the volunteers.

Even towards the commencement of this movement, the *Savarnas* had approached Mr. Pitt and suggested that they might be permitted to send volunteers to prevent the *Satyagrahis* from entering the prohibited area. Mr. Pitt consulted the District Magistrate and advised them not to do it, as he thought it would bring about breaches of the peace. From what he said the *Savarnas* seem to have inferred that everything necessary for stopping the movement was being done by the Government and that their interference was not therefore wanted.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumamur*): May I know whether Mr. Pitt has sent any report to the Government to the effect that the *Savarnas* approached him with a request like that?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am not aware.

In this belief they waited for three months, but did not see any active steps being taken as they wished to stop the movement. During these three months, the insults and inconveniences caused to them by the *Satyagrahis*, which I shall refer to in detail later on, were steadily increasing and had reached the bursting point. It was about this time that I went to the place on the 7th Mithunam, 1099.

Here I may be permitted to explain the circumstances which necessitated my going to Vaikam.

PRESIDENT: You should not exceed your time.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Some time after it was started, the *Satyagraha* movement lost its novelty and the people of the place began to ignore it altogether. There were none to turn and even look at the volunteers offering *Satyagraha*, and their coming and standing there every day uncared for began to be felt by them. They then started sending lady volunteers to attract attention and even this failed to have the desired effect after a few days. It was then that they thought of their *charka* and spinning.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Are not lady volunteers going for *Satyagraha* even now?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

This was started towards the beginning of Mithunam. As they kept the *charka* on the road and caused obstruction to it, it was objected to by the Police. But the *Satyagrahis* are Congressmen as well and their creed is non-co-operation and disobedience. It has been my experience with them that they always make it a point to disobey all directions of the Police in the most unreasonable fashion. Agreeably to this creed of theirs, they not only refused to stop spinning on the road, but also

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

started doing it with additional vigour. For, they brought a singing party also, and these stood around the *charka* and began to sing hoarsely in the most annoying manner. I may here be permitted to add that the spirit in which they did all this was this: "You did not want us to spin the *charka* on the road. We are now spinning and singing. Let us see what you are going to do." This spinning and singing into the ears of the Police had the desired effect. For, it attracted large crowds, probably to see the discomfiture of the Police and enjoy the fun. It became impossible to use the road by the public and the shop-keepers on either side began to complain bitterly that their business was at a standstill. The Police could not continue their policy of non-interference any longer and it became their bounden duty to stop the obstruction caused to the road.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether there was any written complaint from the merchants?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): How many complaints have been received?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Petitions.

Under Section 35 of the Police Regulation, they are bound to interpose to prevent the commission of a non-cognizable offence, if committed in their view. It can be prevented in two ways. Either they can use force and push away the persons that cause the obstruction, or leaving the persons alone, remove the things that cause the obstruction. The Police adopted the latter course, to avoid using force on the persons, and it was thus that they began to remove the *charka*. This was not, however, allowed by the volunteers, and they began to offer resistance quite contrary to their creed.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether these *charkas* were produced before the Magistrate?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Yes.

It must be noted here that, at this particular time, there were no proper leaders in the *Satyagraha* camp. It was only after the leaders reached the spot on the 9th Mithunam 1099 that the resistance was stopped and from that time forward there has been no complaint that the Police caused violence to the *Satyagrahis*. If then some force had to be used for taking away the *charka*, it was because the volunteers offered resistance to their being taken away. The Police had to take them away in spite of the resistance offered. I would leave it to the members to decide how it could be done without using some force. In this connection some pushing also became inevitable and all this has been grossly exaggerated into squeezing testicles, fisting and other things. All along,

the Police were only trying to avoid any sort of interference with the *Satyagrahis*. If they interfered this time, it was because they could not avoid it consistently with their duty. To understand the position clearly, I would transfer the scene from Vaikam to Trivandrum. Supposing the *Satyagrahis* stand at the Eastern Fort gate trying to enter the Fort and are stopped there by the Police, and they also place a *charka* in the middle of the road in front and allow half a dozen others to stand around it and sing while one is spinning at it, I would ask whether the Police would not be found fault with, if they did not take action and remove the obstruction. There is therefore no justification for finding fault with the Police or for accusing me of introducing a change of policy. It was the change in the programme of work of the *Satyagrahis* that necessitated the interference referred to above. If they had stuck to their old programme, there would have been no Police interference either. Whether there is change of policy or not, the complaint against the Police will be there. It was not absent during the time of Mr. Pitt. Then also there were complaints that Kurur Namburippad, Chittodattu Sanku Pillai and others were assaulted by the Police and *Savarnas*. And crime No. 54/96 of Vaikam station for assaulting the *Satyagrahis* on the 27th Medam 1098 was taken up for investigation during his time.

As I said before, this decision to remove the *charkas* was come to towards the beginning of Mithunam. It appeared in the papers, and when I saw the Dewan on the 5th Mithunam 1099 he asked me what the new trouble was at Vaikam about the *charka*. I told him what I then knew of it and he wanted me to go to the spot and see for myself whether there was any necessity for impressing the *charka*. It was this that necessitated my going to Vaikam. I left Trivandrum on the evening of the same day and reached Vaikam by the afternoon of the 7th *idem*. I had a conference with the District Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Inspector, and we then came to the conclusion that *charkas* must be removed if they were kept on the road for spinning in the manner described above.

The next point that requires explanation is the fact that the *anti-Satyagraha* movement was started on the 10th Mithunam 1099 while I was there. For, it is suspected that I was the cause of it. While I admit that some replies that I gave to the *Savarna* Hindus who came to represent their grievances on the 8th *idem* might have induced them to start the movement, I must disclaim all knowledge of their intention to start it. Had I known it then, I would have requested them at least to postpone starting it by a day, so that I might get away from the place. After having gone to Vaikam to see about the *charka* affair, I wanted to finish the inspection of the Station also.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (Tiruvalla): May I know what is the nature of the reply that he gave to the *Savarna* Hindus? I would also request him to speak a little louder. We cannot follow him.

[Mr. R. K. Krishna Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Pillai, you may come nearer if necessary and read.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was any noise made by the *charkas* during Mr. Pitt's time?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I started the examination of the records from the 7th Mithunam 1099. My intention was to visit the Station on the morning of Monday the 10th for kit inspection and drill and leave Vaikam that afternoon. The anti-movement was started on the morning of the 10th, while I was inspecting the Station. If I am credited with ordinary prudence and common sense, I cannot be expected to have arranged for its starting on the 10th itself before my leaving the place. The fact was that the *Savarnas*, as a result of the answers I said I had given them, were dissatisfied with the stand I had taken and did not want to take me into their confidence. And the result was that they started it at once, without any regard for me or for the awkward positions which they were going to place me in. All I can say is that it was most unfortunate and that it was not open to me to control my fortunes. I shall now explain the circumstances which precipitated their action.

This anti-movement is the direct result of the conduct of the *Satyagrahis* towards the *Savarnas* during the past months.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): What is that particular conduct?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I am coming to that. The cumulative effect was there. The insults and inconveniences the *Satyagrahis* had offered had reached the bursting point at the time of my visit. On hearing of my arrival, some of the leaders came to see me. The first question they asked me was, if I was prepared to adopt any effective methods to stop the *Satyagraha* movement at least then. For, they seem to have been under the impression that Government would come out with some such method soon and were becoming impatient of the delay. I had no cut and dry methods to stop the movement and I could not possibly give them any false hopes. I told them so, and this answer, I now guess, must have precipitated their decision to start their movement. There was yet another cause. The next point they spoke to me about was that I must at least prevent the *Satyagrahis* from insulting them. I asked them what the nature of the insults was. They enumerated a number of them. After listening to them I had to tell them that it was not possible for me to stop those insults, as they were not such as could be taken cognizance of by the Police. One example will illustrate my position. One of their complaints was that the *Satyagrahis* went round the streets in procession in large numbers with flags and singing songs. When they reach the gates of *anti-Satyagrahis* they halt there and begin yelling out *kee jai*. It may be argued that there is nothing insulting in this. But any one who has had experience of this *kee jai* could easily understand

how insulting it is, especially when it is done at the gates of the house of an *anti-Satyagrahi* where the ladies also live. Perhaps a *Satyagrahi* can be expected to take it as an honour, but when such a thing is done to an *anti-Satyagrahi*, it can only be taken as an insult. Another complaint was that when they and their children are met on the roads they address them as “സംഗ്രാമിയന്മാരെ.”

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether this address was made by the *Satyagrahis* or others?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): *Satyagrahis*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it so reported or is it his experience?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): That was what I gathered from the enquiry I made. Now, it was these things that they wanted me to prevent. From the experience I had of the *Satyagrahis* and their studied disobedience to all instructions given by the Police, I told them that if I interfered in those matters and advised the *Satyagrahis* to stop them, it would only make matters worse and therefore it was not advisable for me to interfere in those things. Here it is well to remember what the *Satyagrahis* did when the Police asked them not to place the *charka* on the road and it is experience of this kind that induced me to give this reply. I gave these replies without suspecting in the least that there was an idea of starting an *anti-Satyagraha* movement. For, at this time, I did not know that these people had made a proposal of the kind to Mr. Pitt and had dropped it on his advice and under the full belief that the Government would do all that in their opinion was needed to put a stop to the *Satyagraha* movement.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether Mr. Krishna Pillai has direct information about the proposal having been made to Mr. Pitt?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Not from Mr. Pitt. This information, I got subsequently, not from the *anti-Satyagrahis*, but from the District Magistrates and from my subordinates who were at the spot.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that it was Mr. Pitt who offered this proposal to the *anti-Satyagrahis* at Vaikam, to go and offer resistance in the place where the Police were kept at the barricade.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): My information is that it was the other way.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): I was present when he made the proposal.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Had I known that there was a possibility of such an anti-movement coming into existence and that so soon, I would certainly have at least refrained from giving the answers for the time being.

[President.]

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know when the Police Commissioner returned from Vaikam?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): 10th afternoon, according to my original programme. It is therefore that I said before that it was my misfortune that started the thing when I was there and that I had no control over the same.

I am certain that the supporters of the *Satyagraha* movement in and outside this Council would refuse to believe that the *Satyagraha* volunteers are capable of offering insults to the *Savarnas*, or for that matter, to any body. For, these volunteers are considered to be *Gandhis* in miniature and that, therefore, their conduct is flowing in milk and honey towards not only *Savarnas* but also towards the public in general. I may be permitted to assure the members that it is not so. The volunteers are recruited largely from runaways and do-nothings and failures in education.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I bring to his notice that some of the very best men in the country have been volunteers?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): I said largely.

They join this chiefly on account of the free meal and clothing they get and the free vent they can give to the exuberance of their spirit. The prospect of insulting and disobeying the Police and constituted authority is another motive which is perhaps even stronger than any given above. For, the moment they join the movement they become conscious of all the strength of the Congress movement behind them and begin to show defiance of all authority. I shall give here only one instance of such behaviour in support of my statement. The District Superintendent, Kottayam, and myself were going along the western road westward to the travellers' bungalow. We saw one of the volunteers coming eastward at some distance. He read out the contents of a notice which he had in his hand when he was at some distance from us. The notice was about a meeting they were going to have that evening. On hearing him the District Superintendent thought that he heard the names of two persons on whom notices had been served also included in the list of speakers. So when the volunteer approached us, the District Superintendent stepped forward and bending himself asked him: "Let me see the notice." As soon as he did this the volunteer quickly drew his hand with the notice to his back and walked on without even turning and looking at the District Superintendent of Police. It must be noted that the District Superintendent was in his uniform and that his discomfiture at the time raised a laughter from the by-standers.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know what is the disobedience involved?

PRESIDENT: It is no disobedience. He says *discomfiture*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That may be. It is not disobedience.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): Under ordinary circumstances this boy would not have the courage to behave in that fashion. I would, in this connection, request the members to consider what effect such open defiance will have on the rowdies and how the Police will be able to keep down rowdyism if they are thus openly insulted and their authority set at naught. The District Superintendent had to come away quietly after this incident. Such is the spirit in which these volunteers are offering *satyagraha* at Vaikam. I would leave it to the members of the Council to judge for themselves how a volunteer of this mentality who did not hesitate to insult even a District Superintendent in uniform so openly, can be expected to behave towards the *Savarnas* who are working against them.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether any acts of rowdyism have been brought to the notice of the Police, and if so, whether any action has been taken?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They were not reported to have done any forcible act. But everything they could do to bring about violence from others, they were doing by way of words and gestures.

They are supposed to be melting the hearts of the oppositionists by their non-violence, forbearance and sufferings. Those who have seen them more closely know that they are doing just the reverse.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): They are trying their level best to generate hatred and bitterness of feelings amongst the oppositionists, and I may assure the Council that, in spite of all the meetings and the paper reports they are having, the support for their cause from *Savarnas* is not on the increase, but is decidedly on the decrease. It cannot be otherwise, so long as the conduct of the volunteers remains as it is now. I have my own experience of them.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How did he come to that conclusion?

MR. R. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Commissioner of Police*): It is the result of enquiries. But I do not wish to try the patience of the Council by an enumeration of all those insults which the *Savarnas* are experiencing at the hands of the *Satyagrahis*. They insult *Savarnas* who try to go to the temple without being polluted. They hamper students who do not wear *Khadar*. They insult school-going girls of the opposite party by laughing and making gestures. In the eyes of their supporters, they can do no wrong.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): He seems to infer that anti-*Satyagrahis* are increasing in number and sympathisers are decreasing in number.

PRESIDENT: He did not at all say anything like that so far as I remember.

[Mr. K. George].

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): That is what I recollected from his statement.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, it will not be possible for me in the short time at my disposal to reply fully to all the points that have been raised, in the course of discussion, by my non-official friends during these two days. Unfortunately, my colleagues on this side of the House have not had sufficient opportunity to explain matters relating to their own departments. Nevertheless I am obliged to confine my remarks to questions of a general nature which have been raised in the course of the discussion.

One matter that has loomed very large in this year's discussion is the recent flood and its effect on our finances. Some of the members have taken a very pessimistic view of the situation. They would have us abandon the ordinary activities of the Government and make deep cuts in the allotments provided for expenditure next year. Some would go even to the length of suspending the increments of the officials that accrue next year.

Sir, it seems to me that these suggestions are somewhat panicky. It is pardonable that those who come from the affected areas should feel strongly about the disaster and should, perhaps naturally, take an exaggerated view of the situation. But I do not think that our position is so serious as to call for these desperate remedies. I think my friends Mr. Velu Pillai and Mr. Changanachery Paramesvaran Pillai have taken the correct view in this matter. It would be an extremely unwise step if, on account of the flood, we were to abandon our normal activities next year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know who were the members that suggested that normal activities would have to be postponed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Several members suggested that.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will the Financial Secretary be able to name one such member?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The first speaker, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai, himself said that.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam, cum Ettumanur*): May I be permitted to give my explanation? I never said that the normal activities of the departments must be suspended. I only said that expenditure should be incurred only in regard to the absolutely necessary items.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There had been speeches to the effect that provisions for incomplete works in the Public Works Department should be cut by half and that the provisions for new works should be omitted altogether. That was mentioned by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I point out that it is a misconception brought about by the speech of Mr. Velu Pillai?

PRESIDENT: You cannot explain what Mr. Velu Pillai said.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): It is only a misconception on the part of others. As a matter of fact, nobody said that the normal activities of the Government should be stopped.

PRESIDENT: I distinctly remember that some members said so. I think Father Vettikapalli said that not merely the normal activities should be stopped but that deep cuts should be made.

THE REV. FATHER VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): I said that deep cuts should be made, but not that the normal activities should be stopped.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Deep cuts mean the abandonment of several of our normal activities.

I say, the abandonment of our normal activities would be as much a disaster to the people as the flood itself. I agree with Mr. Mackie that our country possesses sufficient recuperative power to recover from the effects of the disaster of the floods soon. As I mentioned in my opening speech, it is true that we are not at present in a position to gauge the effects of the floods on our revenues and expenditure of this year and next year and these two years may probably close with a deficit. I did not at all mean thereby that our financial position has been rendered precarious by the floods. Were it so, I would not have waited for a discussion in the Council to do what was essential to avoid a financial collapse. On the other hand, Government have carefully considered the situation and have decided to go on with their usual programme of expenditure. Government have already dropped a few items of expenditure which can afford to be postponed to a more favourable year. But I repeat that it will be very unwise if we abandon any scheme which is urgent or which is in the full swing of operation.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not the Financial Secretary say that he was "groping in the dark" with regard to expenditure?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I would request Mr. Hoogewerf to read my speech carefully. I said we were groping in the dark about the effects of the flood on our revenue next year and not on expenditure.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What could be done without revenue in the matter of expenditure?

PRESIDENT: That is a matter for argument.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I only said that I was not able to revise the estimates to suit the new conditions that have arisen.

[Mr. K. George.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): When all the roads and bridges and several other things are under water, how can you make correct estimates?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was just what I said. (*Laughter.*)

As I have already said, the deficits are only temporary and due to abnormal causes. There is absolutely no harm in such a case in meeting the deficits by drawing on our balances which are quite ample to meet our present requirements.

As regards the suggestions to suspend the increments of officials, I suppose it is not meant to be taken seriously. Whenever anything untoward happens or any extra money is to be found for anything, it is usual that our non-official friends want to put their hands into the pockets of the poor Government officials. The officials are also members of the general public of Travancore. In these floods a great many of them have suffered loss and they have also been liberal in subscribing to the various relief funds. It is hardly fair to compulsorily mulct them also of their increments, many of them small in amount, but all of them long waited for.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Naikam cum Ettumanur*): It is only the increments that have to be suspended.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I say it is hardly fair to deprive them of their increments.

One or two members said that the amounts we have provided for the repair of the flood damages—

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does the suspension of the increments of the officials mean the suspension of the normal activities of the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I did not say so.

One or two members said that the amounts we have provided for the repair of flood damages and the issue of agricultural loans are insufficient. As regards the former, I have said in my speech that we shall, if necessary, provide additional funds for the purpose. In regard to agricultural loans, we have on the whole provided Rs. 5½ lakhs for the purpose. That is all that I think we may be able to spend during the course of a year, however much we may try, even if we have a special agency for distributing these loans. Even here if the amount is not found adequate there will be no difficulty to provide additional funds.

Mr. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran mentioned that the loans should be available for the reconstruction of houses and huts. I may inform him that the Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans Regulation makes provision for the loans being used for that purpose as well.

Sir, every year a great deal is said about the critical position of our finances. Many have been predicting a financial crash; but I am

thankful to say that we are still surviving and the fulfilment of these gloomy predictions is being postponed from year to year.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it not by imposition of fresh taxes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not here refer to the question of fresh taxes. Every year a prediction is made that we are sure to collapse, and every year we are found to be surviving.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is it not a fact that every year new taxes are added?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know who it was that predicted such collapse?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The tone of the speeches in all past budget sessions indicated that.

Reference was made by more than one member to the apparent inconsistency between my Appropriation Report and my budget speech. A careful reading of both will, I think, remove this misapprehension. In my Appropriation Report, I referred to the past tendency of expenditure progressing more rapidly than revenue and pointed out the necessity for caution. I had also stated that, to ensure progress coupled with a sound financial position, our policy should be to strive to augment our revenue resources and to reduce the demand on them in all feasible directions. I would emphasise the words "reduce the demands on them in all feasible directions." That does not necessarily mean retrenchment. In my speech, I have said that, when our normal financial position now obscured by the catastrophic floods is restored, our financial position will be found to be not wanting in soundness or stability. In making this statement, I have of course assumed that we shall not in the meantime embark on extravagant schemes of expenditure; and I still maintain that our financial position is sufficiently safe and sound.

As regards increasing our resources without imposing additional taxation, that, Sir, is a proposition which will stagger any financier; for whatever revenue the Government get comes from the pockets of the people either by direct or by indirect taxation. In one sense, however, we can increase our income without taxation in the ordinary sense of the term, *viz.*, by trying to get a better return for our commercial services and undertaking more services of the same kind. At present we have three such services, *viz.*, the Kodayar Irrigation, the Anchal Department and the Railway. Practically none of these is now a paying concern. On the Kodayar Project we have spent already about Rs. 82 lakhs. But we are getting a yield which works out only at less than 1 per cent. on our investment. The Anchal Department is now working at a loss of about Rs. $\frac{1}{2}$ a lakh every year. The actual deficit may be more when we take into account the cost of maintaining the

[Mr. K. George.]

Anchal buildings and interest on the capital we have invested. To make these two departments pay, we shall have to increase the value of the services rendered—i. e., increase the water cess in the case of the Kodayar Irrigation and increase the Anchal rates in the Anchal Department.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*):

കോതയാർ ഡിവിഷണിലുള്ള സത്രങ്ങളുടേയും ടി. ബി. കളുടേയും ചിലവുകൾ പ്രോജക്റ്റിന്റെ "working expenses" ൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: It is only your information.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I have worked it out. Rs. 33,000 on account of old maintenance charges has been deducted only this year. There seems to be some error in the calculation.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I would refer him to the Statistics Volume. The old maintenance charges were being reduced in all the previous years in the *pro forma* account.

PRESIDENT: If you have any doubt, Mr. Kumara Pillai, and if you want an explanation, you may go to the Financial Secretary or to the Chief Secretary who will explain it.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the Anchal Department is being given credit for the work they do in the Savings Banks?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): We have decided to give it.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): May I know whether, in the calculation of the aggregate amount spent upon the Kodayar works, the interest on the yearly instalment of expenditure has been included?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam cum Ettumanur*): Then it would be more than Rs. 82 lakhs.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As regards the Anchal rates, my friend Mr. Raja Raja Varma referred to the high rates already existing, but if we compare the Anchal rates here with the Anchal rates in other places—the enhancement that has been made here is only a single cash on a card and two cash on a cover—we find that the rates here are very low. For example, if we refer to the rates prevailing in Cochin we find that the rates there are more than double. In British India the rates are even much higher. Therefore, as I said, we have to increase the water cess in the case of the Kodayar Irrigation and increase the Anchal rates. These are suggestions which I think will not be acceptable to this House.

In regard to Railways, we used to get some income out of it, but after the war was over owing to the heavy cost of renewals and repairs and the increase in the rate of interest on debentures the surplus was turned into a deficit and we had to meet the loss from our general revenues. There are, however, reasons to believe that the loss is only a passing phase and that we may get a fair income from our railways in normal times in future.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know why there was such a large fall in the income from railways in the first part of the year and such a big increase in the second part of the year?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I will answer that question when I speak with reference to Mr. Mackie's question about it on Saturday.

We have, however, to remember that we have no direct hand in the management of the railways and that we have no means of increasing its earning or reducing the working expenses.

As for going in for new projects of a reproductive character, it has to be remembered that such works will involve heavy capital expenditure and it will be simply out of the question to think of financing them from our normal revenues or from our balances. My friend Mr. Kumara Pillai says that loans are a dangerous snare and should be avoided as the plague. I am afraid his views are antiquated. The principle of financing reproductive works with borrowed money is one that is followed by all civilised Governments. Just as no large business is possible except with borrowed capital, so also, no large reproductive scheme, whether irrigation, railway or electric scheme, can be undertaken without the help of loan money. Of course, borrowing for the purpose of meeting current expenditure or for financing doubtful or unprofitable schemes is highly objectionable. No one will advocate it as a general policy. Mr. Kumara Pillai will have us take a lesson from Mysore as to the danger of borrowing. I would, on the contrary, myself refer to Mysore as an example of a country which is getting a large income from reproductive works which they financed from loans. I have got figures which show that they get about 36 lakhs of rupees as income from two or three works, namely, the electrical scheme, Krishna Raja Sagara Works and their railways, and the interest they pay on loans is negligible compared to their profits.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I only quoted the figures from the speeches of the Mysore Dewan. That is not my own.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The Mysore Dewan perhaps referred to some of the schemes that have recently been started which may not be paying.

Whatever may be the ultimate fate of a few of their recent projects, there is no question that their railway, electrical and irrigation schemes are giving them an overflowing return and it will be well if we imitate them in this matter. But, to do so, people must place some

[Mr. K. George.]

confidence on the Government and should leave them some liberty of action.

Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and one or two others have again referred to the necessity of separating the stable from the unstable sources of revenue, and have pointed out that this is being done in Mysore. I agree to it as a principle that recurring expenditure should not be increased on the basis of unstable income. But, as I have once before said, we have not many such items of unstable revenue. Except the settled land revenue, every kind of revenue is subject to fluctuations from year to year and therefore more or less unstable. In Travancore the only item of revenue which will disappear ultimately is what we realise by sale of Government lands. But even there it is stable enough for all practical purposes. We have still extensive tracts of unoccupied lands and the people are slow in taking them up. It will be several years before we exhaust them and during this period we are sure to get a regular and steady income from this source. There is no special advantage, therefore,—

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eramel cum Vilavankod*): For how many years could we expect income from that source, approximately?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I cannot prophecy. But I can say that we could expect that for not less than a decade.

There is no special advantage, therefore, in leaving this revenue out of account in our calculation. The case of Mysore is, I think, different. There is a special item of revenue there which is of an uncertain character, viz., the revenue from Mysore Assigned Tract. Sometimes this gives them quite a large windfall, but at other times the revenue is small. At any rate, it was found that they could not depend on it for regulating their expenditure. Apart from this, I do not think they have treated any other important item of revenue as unstable. Strictly speaking, abkari revenue is unstable, and with the progress of education and the temperance and prohibition movements, it may ultimately disappear from the budgets of many of the Governments in India. But no one now dreams of classifying it as unstable revenue and leaving it out of account for the purpose of regulating expenditure.

As usual, the expenditure on salaries came in for much criticism. The criticisms were of two kinds. One was that the salaries paid to some of the superior officers were quite excessive. No specific cases were quoted. On the other hand it has been urged even by some of the members that they were of opinion that the pay of some of the officers was low and should be increased. Another line of criticism taken was that the services were overmanned. Sir, in this matter of expenditure on salaries the officials and non-officials naturally hold very different and even irreconcilable views. That, however, is not peculiar to Travancore. The same criticism is levelled against all Governments in India and probably elsewhere also. Recently this criticism was made in the Mysore Council. Whatever the official side may say on the question, it

is likely to come up again and again and we cannot hope to finally lay it to rest. But I would take leave to say this, *viz.*, that it is not fair to the Government to accuse it of deliberately exploiting the tax-payer or even of being unmindful of his interests in order to pamper to the services. Government have already explored various avenues of retrenchment and, as the House knows, they have effected a substantial reduction in the number of appointments in the recent reorganisations.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): May I know the extent of the retrenchment?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That was given in a reply to an interpellation. I have not got the figures ready to hand.

If appointments have increased it was due to unavoidable causes, and it was done mostly in departments which have developed since. Every departmental head knows thoroughly well what difficulty he has to experience to get even a peon or watcher for his department. First he has to satisfy the Administrative Secretariat. Then the Financial Department will try to put a spoke in his wheel and finally he has to run the gauntlet of the ever-vigilant Finance Committee and ultimately of this House, so much so that no departmental head ventures to make a proposal for increased establishment if he can help it. So much as regards the creation of new appointments. Turning to reduction of existing appointments, I must say that it is not a fair charge to make that heads of departments would like to increase the number of their subordinates either for reasons of prestige or patronage. In the last reorganisation, very substantial reductions were made in the establishments of several departments so much so that several departments have since complained of the lack of sufficient hands to carry on their regular work. In this connection we have to bear in mind one or two things, *viz.*, (i) the increase in the activities of the Government, and (ii) the increasing complications of Government work on account of the increase of rules and regulations and I may add also on account of the inauguration of the present Council. As I have stated on previous occasions the Government do not deny that a few appointments may be reduced; but the reduction will not amount to much. It is seen that our total budget provision for 1100 on account of salaries is about 77½ lakhs of rupees. On an analysis of this expenditure it is seen that out of this the Education Department absorbs Rs. 25 lakhs and the Medical and Sanitary Departments Rs. 4½ lakhs. In regard to these departments their usefulness to the public mainly depends on the number of hands they employ. Then the Judicial Department gets Rs. 9.11 lakhs and the Development Departments Rs. 1.55 lakhs. These four departments together cost about Rs. 40 lakhs, and as regards these departments, substantial reduction either in the number of their officers or their pay is not generally urged. On the other hand in a few instances the demand has been to improve the pay and prospects of the members of these departments. Then our Military and Devaswom Departments and His Highness the Maha

[Mr. K. George.]

Raja's stables spend over Rs. 4½ lakhs. In these departments it is impracticable to supply the pruning knife. Then all the remaining departments together spend about 33 lakhs of rupees. Such being the case, how can we bring about any substantial reduction in these departments, at any rate, such reductions as will set free sufficient funds to help us in schemes of development?

Reference has been made to the high cost of education in Travancore. This is due to the fact that in Travancore a large number of educational institutions from primary schools to colleges are departmental, whereas, in other places, like British India and Mysore, a great share in this matter is borne by municipalities and local boards. Our schools are therefore more costly.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Why should not the Government reduce expenditure by handing over more departmental schools to private agencies?

PRESIDENT: If people come forward and offer to conduct some of the schools, Government will only be too glad to hand them over to them.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): In Travancore, people want the Government to undertake all educational expenditure, and when proposals are made to transfer some departmental schools to private agency, there is stout opposition to such proposals.

I shall now refer to some of the specific matters raised in the discussion.

Several of the members urged a revision of the Interportal Trade Convention with the British Government. As regards this I have only to say thus much. The terms of the Cochin Harbour agreement which is no longer a confidential document will show how practically with very little expenditure we have secured most of the advantageous which are sought to be secured by a problematical revision of the Interportal Convention. This agreement was published in the *Government Gazette* in October, 1923.

Reference was also made to our disadvantageous position in the matter of tea duty. The arrangement about it is this. We collect the full duty on tea that is exported to foreign countries through British Indian ports, but pay half of the duty thus realised to the British Government. The reason for this is that the British Government have a claim to levy full duty on the tea exported through their ports. Had it not been for this arrangement what would have happened is that the tea produced in our country would have had to bear a double duty, which would have placed the Travancore tea at a serious disadvantage in foreign markets. That would have affected the tea trade, one of the most flourishing trades in this country, very much.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does not the Interportal Convention authorise the levy of duty on tea exported?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think the Interportal Convention deals with exports.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does it not enable us to realise duty on goods exported from Travancore?

PRESIDENT: It does not prohibit the British Government from levying duty at their ports.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Just as in the case of other articles exported from Travancore, why not we levy a duty on tea also?

PRESIDENT: It is not all our articles exported that are liable to duty in British India. There are articles in British India on which duty is levied on export. As a matter of fact they are levying export duty on tea grown elsewhere in India.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): As a compromise, it was arranged that we take half and give the remaining half to the British Government.

Reference was also made to the necessity of getting a rebate in respect of opium. Government have not been idle about it. The matter is under correspondence with the British Government. In this connection I would mention one fact that has not been referred to by the members, *viz.*, the rebate on ganja. Recently by the efforts of the Government we have succeeded in getting a rebate on ganja to a much larger extent than in the past. That is likely to bring us an increase of about half a lakh of rupees every year.

My friend Mr. Madhava Variar referred to the question of employment of foreigners in Travancore and criticised the present rules in our Service Regulation about the law of domicile. Government have already taken up the question about the revision of the rules in the Service Regulation and the matter has been referred to Mr. Subba Aiyar.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI quoted some figures to show that our resources are being depleted year by year. I believe by *Nikkigirippu* he meant the State cash balance.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): I meant the opening balance.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I should like to know what exactly he meant by that.

PRESIDENT: He says he meant the opening balance.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The opening balance may mean the balance in the Treasury or the difference between the assets and the liabilities of the Government which is shown in our balance sheet as "Government Balance." The two are altogether different. I should therefore like to know what exactly he meant.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Vilavankod*): That explanation ought to be found in the Administration Report from which I got this information.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): If Mr. Kumara Pillai refers to the statement of assets and liabilities

[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

printed in the budget he will find the cash balance and Government balance separately shown. I would point out that our cash resources and other resources in bank deposits are much larger now than in the past.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar referred to some defects in the railway administration, and to the non-usage by the South Indian Railway of the rolling stock purchased by us for our line and Mr. Mackie also complained of the shortage of waggons. Mr. Mackie's remarks on these points last year were communicated to the Railway Company. I think it would be worth while to hear what they say about it. The Agent writes to say—I mean to read only the relevant portions from his letter.

“Mr. Mackie says that a large sum of money had been reported as having, in the previous year, been given to the South Indian Railway Company for providing new Rolling Stock. The amount was Rs. 5,18,000, of which, however, only Rs. 96,282 was spent on Rolling Stock and the balance surrendered.

“During the year 75 B. C. G. and 4 B. V. were erected and put into use at a total cost of Rs. 8,73,872 for which amount had been voted previously. These wagons obviously cannot be confined to work over the Travancore State Section only, without considerably hampering the free interchange of traffic, and wagons paid for by the State do run over the rest of the system as do wagons paid for by the South Indian Railway over the Travancore State lines. A great number of these wagons owned by the State are however marked to run only over certain portions of the South Indian Railway, with which there is the bulk of the interchange traffic, so that they may be kept as far as possible for this traffic.

“Inadequate supplies of wagons. The total of stock of wagons belonging to the State is 394 (up to end of September 1923) and from statements I have had prepared, the numbers at stations on the State line average daily about half this number, no account being taken of wagons in transit on trains, which should account for the balance.

The demands at one time admittedly were in excess of the supplies, but more wagons have been obtained, and for some time past a careful watch has been kept over this matter and the actual loadings have been in excess of the demands.”

“While on the subject of inadequacy of Rolling Stock, it will not be out of place to point out that in one respect this is absolutely correct. The number of engines belonging to the Travancore Railway is 19 and this number having been found quite inadequate for the needs of the line, has been supplemented by 11 engines from the South Indian Railway, making up the number of engines to 30 which is the figure that the Superintendent considers necessary for the working of the line, and this, without any charge for hire or otherwise to the State Section, so that it can hardly be argued with this outstanding instance appearing, that stock purchased by the State is systematically diverted for use elsewhere.”

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it a fact that the Travancore Government is charged for two engines in the ghaut section?

PRESIDENT: You are not audible.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it a fact that the Travancore Government is charged for two engines in the ghaut section while as a matter of fact only one engine is being used?

PRESIDENT: For each train? No, there is no information.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Ghanganachery cum Minachil*): Will the Financial Secretary be kind enough to put the relevant portions in a more understandable manner?

PRESIDENT: The reply by the South Indian Railway has to be read carefully before it is understood.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It will appear in the Proceedings of this Council

Mr. Mackie enquired and Mr. Hoogewerf also asked about the large difference between the results of the working of the Travancore Railway in the first half of the year 1923-24 and the second half. I have given one reason for the difference, viz., that the interest charges were less in the second half-year than the first.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kun-nattur*): Will the member be pleased to place the whole reply from the South Indian Railway Company before this Council?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have read the relevant portions, and they will appear in the Council Proceedings. The Agent's letter deals with several other matters; they are not however confidential.

As regards the difference between the results in the working in the two half years, one reason is the difference in the amount of interest charged. Another reason is that there was a difference in the working expenses. As regards that, I am not in a position to say what was the cause which led to the difference. I am asking the Railway Company about it. But if I may make a guess, it may be due to the fact that for some years after the war they were incurring very heavy expenditure on renewals and replacements which were somewhat neglected during the war, and probably—I am only making a guess—on that account the expenditure might have become less and less as time went on.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does not the company provide for depreciation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think they provide.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Is the Financial Secretary sure that no provision for depreciation is made?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): So far as I know, they do not make any provision for depreciation.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that when the engines become useless we have to purchase fresh engines and that there will be no depreciation fund available for the purpose?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No, so far as I am aware.

My friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar proposes that our sinking fund should be invested in agricultural loans. I am sure if he thinks seriously about it he will not advocate such a step. If we dissipate our sinking funds like that, a portion of it may be lost and the funds may not be available when we require it.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does Mr. George mean to say that the agricultural loans as at present

[Mr. C. Sankara Menon.]

utilised are likely to be lost, and, if so, who is responsible for giving out the loans?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): That question does not arise here.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Does he think that, if proper care is taken, the loans are likely to be lost, and, if so, are not the individuals who have been responsible for giving the loans responsible for the amounts also?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not say it *will be* lost. I only said that it was *liable* to be lost. I think it would be a very serious step to distribute the sinking funds as agricultural loans. If we dissipate our sinking funds like that, a portion of the amount may be lost and the funds may not be available when we require them. Therefore I think that the sinking funds should always remain in gilt-edged securities.

Mr. Krishna Aiyar also enquired as to what had become of the State-aided Bank, and whether it would share the fate of some of the other concerns for which Government have offered help. I hope it would not and, if it did so, it would not be the fault of the Government. We are now considering the memorandum and the articles of association which have been submitted by the Provisional Board.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): May I know how much money has till now been subscribed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Does he refer to the amounts actually paid in?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): No, I mean the amounts promised.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not know. I am not on the board. We will take up the subject of the State-aided Bank as soon as the work in regard to this Council is over and Government will pass final orders on the question shortly.

Now I shall refer to one or two points raised by my friend Mr. Sankara Menon. One point is about the classification which we adopted in regard to military works. Now the change that has been made is this. The public works expenditure in the Military Department and the expenditure on pensions in that department, hitherto charged under two different major heads, were transferred to the military budget, since it was thought advisable to do so, as is being done in other places. In British India, Mysore and other places the same thing is being done. But the change has not converted a votable item into a non-votable item. It was in the past also held to be a non-votable item.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether when it was included in the P. W. D. it was not open to this House to question the principle of the whole demand by a nominal reduction?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I do not think so.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the principle could not be discussed?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It was marked in the past as a non-votable item. I do not know the correctness of it. I am not a lawyer. I shall read what the Regulation says.

"It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or affecting.....our military forces....."

So it was open to us to treat it as non-votable even before. There are so many non-votable items which are included under votable heads. This is only one of such items.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Could not the principle involved in these items be discussed by a nominal reduction?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I am not in a position to answer that. That is for a lawyer to answer. As a matter of fact we have not made any change except that in the present budget we had classified it under a different head.

Mr. Menon also referred to the new head 'Anchal Capital Account' that we have opened for debiting the expenditure which will be incurred for the construction of Anchal buildings. In future we are also taking steps to assess the capital value of the buildings already in use by the department and will charge the department with interest on the capital.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Why was the honorarium to the Deputy President treated as non-votable?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): It is held to be a non-votable item.

PRESIDENT: Have you finished Mr. George?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I have very little to add. Among several other things that were mentioned, I would only refer to one point. One or two members referred to loss of money by misappropriation from the treasuries and said that it was a matter of common occurrence. We had only one serious case like that recently.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): At Kottayam, Quilon and the awkward occurrence at the Kottarakara Treasury. There are so many instances like these.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): At Kottayam it took place a long time ago.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Only three or four years ago.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): About the incident at Kottarakara I have not heard anything officially.

[Mr. K. George.]

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachi*): Are there not still lurking cases?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): How am I to know that?

PRESIDENT: I suppose that it is well known that the world in which we live is not perfect. There will be dishonest people always in it.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): I have nothing more to add.

The Council adjourned at 5-45 P. M. to meet again at 11-30 A. M. the next morning.

S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.
